
Our Paper: Serving the Alternative Community

Periodicals

Fall 9-1984

Our Paper 09/1984

Our Paper

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Our Paper

Vol 2., No. 1

September 1984

A
VOICE
FOR
LESBIANS
AND
GAY MEN
IN MAINE

FREE

Democratic Convention Journal



Delegate Dale meets Gov. Joe Brennan

photo: John Day (Bangor Daily News)

by Dale McCormick

FRIDAY JULY 13, 1984, 12 PM PST—In flight over San Francisco.

Many delegates are on this flight. Unexpected since this is not the official airline of the convention. After Burlington VT I went back and sat with a group of them: David Brennerman, executive director of the State Democratic Party; Jane Paxton, vice chair of the Party; Karen Kerr, state committee person, and Sharon McIntyre, a delegate from Ellsworth. We were a friendly group laughing and joking a lot. It was the easiest social time I've spent with any of the delegates or party officials which pleased me. One of the items on my agenda for this trip is to get acquainted with the party people and help them realize that lesbians and gay men can really be quite nice.

David said, 'You've been getting a lot of good publicity lately and we don't like it when anyone else gets publicity.' He has a very dry sense of humor. He was referring to the Charlie Howard murder and this engendered a discussion which Jane and Sharon joined. They are shocked and outraged also.

I asked David to explain the brief he worked up for the State Democratic Committee in response to the Jackson challenge of the Maine Delegation. He said it was merely a matter of showing that the Jackson people didn't follow the correct procedures when filing their challenge. In my most calm and rational voice (in the 60's and 70's I would have thrown a picket up around the plane) I said it's always a shame when a matter with content is dismissed on procedural grounds. Then I offered my compromise suggestion to Karen: I'd cast my ballot for Jackson if she'd vote for Hart so that Hart wouldn't lose any ground. She was very receptive saying they'd thought of it too but couldn't get anyone to vote for Jackson. Later I asked their help in getting the idea approved by the Hart caucus. Unity and a gesture toward the Jackson camp seem important at this point. Peter Jackson of the Associated Press was travelling with us and he left on this like a tiger. Dealing with the press was very interesting. They were continually asking us questions and scribbling our answers in their notebooks. However, we couldn't read what was being printed in the Maine papers or aired on MPBN because we were so far away. All we heard was rumors. I felt like I wasn't playing with a full deck. On Monday night as John Martin and I were walking back from the "Oh What A Night" Party that was thrown in the Delegates honor, I asked him if he wasn't also frustrated by our defacto news blackout. He agreed and said he calls his office daily. Then and there I decided I'd call Christine and Marilyn in Portland and get the bird's eye low down from home.

FRIDAY—later in the day

We arrived at SF airport and there were convention volunteers everywhere. The city really put out the red carpet. Eight of us got a bus all to ourselves and the woman driver nicely dropped me at Market Street before taking the rest of them to the hotel. They were going sightseeing for two days; my dance card was filled with gay political gatherings. I hopped a #8 Castro bus out to where the National Association of Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club's national conference was being held. Actually I didn't hop onto anything; rather I dragged my three heavy bags around with me all day till I got to John Frank's apartment where I was staying before the convention.

The National Association meeting was interesting. There were 200 people from 20 states. I finally got to meet Tom Chorlton, the executive director of the National Association, Ginny Apuzzo and Lance Ringel of NGTF. Tom is very nice and brings people in with his power. Ginny & Lance as well. I respect that. When the meeting began I gave a report from Maine as did the two other states to arrive late: North Carolina and Iowa. Harold Wells from Iowa told of the 16 openly gay delegate candidates that they ran and of a gay man who ran in the GOP primary race for the 4th congressional district seat. Tom from North Carolina told of the Senate race against Jesse Helms.

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Ramada Inn Discriminates

By Robin Lambert

On August 22nd, the Ramada Inn of Portland, Maine cancelled a confirmed Gay Political Dinner reservation sponsored by two Portland area gay organizations just three weeks before the event was to be held because the Ramada Inn did not want to be involved in an event, that in the Inn's own words might be "controversial and result in unfavorable press publicity for them".

Sponsors of the event called this decision of the Ramada Inn one more example of homophobic discrimination against Maine lesbians and gays, which is allowed because of the lack of any laws protecting the basic civil rights of homosexuals in Maine. This very dramatically shows the fallacy in the arguments of those opposed to gay/lesbian rights who say the legislation is unnecessary and would only give special treatment to homosexuals. Obviously, the action by the Ramada Inn points out how Maine lesbians and gays do not even have the basic civil right to hold a dinner similar to many other political dinners that are held at the Ramada Inn by other groups. Maine homosexuals are not asking for special treatment in employment, housing and public accommodations, just equal treatment and only passage of Gay Rights Legislation by the Maine Legislature will insure that equal treatment under the law is provided to lesbians and gays so that places like the Ramada Inn cannot refuse to serve them like all other Maine citizens.

Massachusetts, Sales Manager, Don Haggett said that the Ramada Inn had received some very bad publicity when a chapter of the Nazi Party had a function at the Ramada Inn in 1979 and Haggett said the Ramada Inn did not want that to happen again. Haggett, when questioned by leaders of the two gay

Speaking on behalf of the owner, Mr. Joseph Dugas of Cape Cod, organizations sponsoring the dinner, said he did not consider the refusal to serve Maine's gay and lesbian citizens as discrimination at all but simply a desire of the Ramada Inn to avoid involvements in events that might be controversial. Haggett went on to say that "some of my friends are gay, so I can't be accused of discrimination," even though Haggett later admitted he personally didn't know if he approved of homosexuals in general.

The dinner scheduled for Saturday, September 15th is to be in memory of Charles Howard, an openly gay man murdered last month in Bangor by three youths because of his open homosexuality. The dinner sponsored jointly by the Harbor Masters, Inc., a gay men's organization and the Gay People's Alliance of the University of Southern Maine is to be one of many lesbian/gay related events held from September 13th through September 18th for Autumnfest, Maine's celebration of gay and lesbian life.

The dinner will now take place at Verillo's Restaurant, 155 Riverside Street, Turnpike exit #8 in Portland. A cash bar opens at 7 p.m.; dinner will be buffet style and that will begin at 8 p.m. Advanced reservations are necessary. Anyone interested in attending may make reservations by sending \$17.50 per person to Autumnfest Committee, c/o Harbor Masters, Inc., P.O. Box #4044, Station A, Portland, Me. 04101.

Leaders of the two sponsoring gay organizations are encouraging all gays and lesbians to refuse to do business with the Ramada Inn and exert any influence they might have in encouraging their friends and organizations to also boycott the Ramada Inn.

Howard Murder Hearing

by Fred Berger

On Monday, August 20, a probable cause hearing was held in Bangor District Court in the case of the three young men charged with the murder of Charles Howard. After listening to witnesses and hearing taped statements by the defendants, Judge David Cox determined that a crime had been committed but again postponed his decision on whether the young men should be tried as juveniles or adults.

During the hearing the defense attorneys revealed some of their arguments why the young men should be tried as juveniles. They claimed that the young men did not hear Howard say that he could not swim and that they never intended to kill him. Attorneys also asked that the charges be reduced from murder to manslaughter.

One of the witnesses testifying was Roy Ogden who was walking with Howard when they were accosted on the night of July 7. Ogden said that he had received letters threatening him with death if he testified. After the hearing a friend of the accused young men shouted to Ogden, "You're dead, faggot!" When members of the Bangor Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition brought this to the attention of courtroom guards, the guards said they were only there to keep order. Eventually a member of the Bangor Police Dept. came to record the threat.

The next hearing, at which Judge Cox should make his decision on the juvenile or adult status question, will be Friday Sept. 14. If the young men are tried as juveniles they can only be sentenced to the Maine Youth Center until their eighteenth birthdays.

LETTERS

Dear Our Paper.

I saw your paper for the first time today and I was overjoyed! As a lesbian making fledging attempts at becoming involved with area gay groups, it was a very welcome sight.

I'm tired of relying on the sporadic understanding of some straight friends for support. A recent get-together with friends was rather effectively ruined for my lover and myself when a friend was heard making disparaging remarks about an area bar where "lezzies" hang out.

My lover and I are raising a three year old daughter and have reached a point where a lot of thought is going into what direction we should take with her in many areas. We sure could use some input from those who are or have been in similar situations.

There are many times when I feel the need to bury my personal life away to protect myself from potentially hostile responses. I still steam when I remember trying to explain my role in my daughter's care (she is not my biological child) to a woman where I work. After listening for several minutes she remarked that the babe probably doesn't know who her real mother is! Most women seem to assume that because I assume so much of my daughter's care she must be neglected by her "natural mother"! She doesn't have two mothers but she certainly does have two parents.

Aside from parenting issues; it sure would be nice to meet some people around whom we could feel free to really be completely who we are.

Thanks for the opportunity to express my thoughts. I'm proud that Portland has a gay community that is obviously informed, concerned, and committed to a better understanding between all people.

Sincerely,
Coleen

To the Readers of Our Paper,

I have mixed emotions about printing my experience of fag-bashing but, because of my incident (a few days before Charlie Howard's murder in Bangor), I am compelled to share my experience.

My assault was perpetrated at 5 am in Lincoln Park in Portland, Maine. My assailant was alone on the park bench near the fountain. His hair was long and dirty. He was covered by a dirty army blanket. He was holding a book in his hands, and was reading loudly. We did not have any eye contact as I walked by him, but after I passed him he shouted, "Faggot", then hit me with his fist on the right ear. I fell to the ground but managed to retrieve my knife from my pocket. When I turned around to confront him he ran away. I was fortunate that morning because my assailant did not pursue the assault.

I didn't report the assault to the police because I was embarrassed and did not want to continue the event.

I am a strong person, so my emotional self has absorbed the event and adjusted to living in a violent city.

"Peace be with you",
Michael Poisson

To Our Paper:

In an effort to show the non-gay community as well as the gay community how important it is that we stand up for our rights, in February of this year I filed a discrimination suit against Three Rivers Ambulance Service of Milo, Me. because they conspired to remove me from the rolls (by libeling me) simply because I happen to be gay.

I'm now being hassled by my own gay brothers behind my back. So to clear up a few of the misunderstandings and vicious rumors I'm writing to all of you through this newspaper.

1) No, my lawyer is not ripping us off. I was told in the beginning that this type of suit could take up to a year and maybe more.

2) The \$160. check sent to my defense fund which bounced was soon reimbursed thanks to those who contributed. By the time we realized the check was no good, proceedings had

already been started which couldn't be retracted. The defense fund was reimbursed.

3) No, I did not buy a car with defense money. My parents did, however, buy a '69 Pontiac station wagon for my use.

Please, fellow gay brothers and sisters, we need to pull together in order to develop the strength we need to fight for the rights we too deserve as citizens. We all have suffered enough harassment from a misinformed society. Viciousness and fighting within the gay community will only deplete the strength we need in pursuance of our civil rights.

Terry Wallace

Letter to the Editor:

We must not let our sadness at the murder of Charles Howard overwhelm us. Our outrage and anger at the immorality of murder and violence against Gay/Lesbian people and women must override our feelings of sadness.

We had a vigil to mourn the loss of our brother, but moreover to tell the world that violence has got to stop... and now! If violence against Gay/Lesbian people continues, we must issue an ultimatum that warfare will start against the homophobes. Our brother Charles Howard was beaten, kicked, and thrown over the bridge after pleading with his assailants that he could not swim. What was their response? Let the faggot drown. I say: Send them up the river — for life.

Once again, the judicial system is setting the tone toward violence against gay people. If we look back at the precedence, Dan White was given five years for murdering Harvey Milk, San Francisco's Gay City Supervisor and Mayor George Moscone. I ask, what will these young men get? My feeling is that the judicial system will, with the same bigotry and prejudice against Gay/Lesbian people, give them the least possible sentence. I say, we must tell them, show them, this outright violence will not and can not be tolerated... because our lives are at stake. I pray that justice will prevail, but my gut tells me homophobia cuts across class lines, just as we do.

We must mobilize, educate ourselves and others to make our presence known and tolerated, if not accepted. Violence against Gay and Lesbian people must stop.....forever!

In love and solidarity
Sr. Turgida Cox

To the Editor:

During the recent fund-raising campaign by MPBN radio six members and two friends of Northern Lambda Nord were on hand to help as volunteers to staff the phones on Saturday evening of the campaign. In April we had also helped since most of us feel that MPBN radio is the one intelligent "voice" we receive over the airwaves in the County. However, this time an incident occurred that we feel the community of *Our Paper* readers should know about.

the type room

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Happy Birthday "Our Paper"

by Tom Sumner

It's the paper's 1st Birthday. Happy Birthday "Our Paper"! It's time to toot our horns...blow our whistles and whatever else one does on such an event.

Happy Birthday and Thanks (HB&T) to Fred and Diane, two of the original and present members of the Our Paper Collective. Their energy, devotion, enthusiasm and determination has had a huge impact.

HB&T to previous and present members of the collective. Your attitude and abilities have helped create the spirit of the paper.

HB&T to all the advertisers, both past and present, who have helped financially support the paper. Many and special thanks to The Underground, The Gym, Sportsman's, New Leaf Books, New Venture and Our Books for advertising the entire year. Also thanks to those of you who have donated money to Our Paper.

HB&T to B.J. Aaron and Phil Gautreau, past and present advertising managers respectively. A candle on the cake for each of you. (If we can afford it!)

HB&T to all the proofreaders, lay-out people, artists, and photographers. And let us not forget the distributors!

Some of the highlights of the year:

- The paper started out at 8 pages, now is 16 pages.
- It "got dumped" by one printer, but found another.
- The masthead changed in June '84 with good response.
- The front page of the first issue featured an article about Diane Matthews and her challenging the U.S. Army discriminating policy towards lesbians and gays. Later the May '84 issue headlined "Matthews Victorious".

- That first issue interviewed Dale McCormick. The June '84 issue told of her victory in the Democratic State Convention and the announcement that she had won a seat as a member of the Maine Delegation to the Democratic National Convention.

- Interviews throughout the year have been relevant and cogent. Featured were John Preston, Chris Madsen, Doug Strong, Virginia Apuzzo, Northern Lambda Nord, New Ventures, a recovering substance abuser, a gay parent and Ogunquit.

- Regular features have been G.P.A. (Gay People's Alliance) Update, Jerry's Banter (we miss you!), Dear Gaybee, Arts and Entertainment, Politiculture, Calendar items and poetry.

It's been a good year for the paper. There has been constant interest in getting the paper together and out. It has managed to stay in the black and has accomplished its original goal: to be "a voice for lesbian and gay men in Maine."

So...go bake a cake or buy a Twinkie and put a candle in it and sing the birthday song. Sing it loud and proud. And remember, "Our Paper" is *your* paper.

Using as an example an earlier challenge by a radio listener who offered a free subscription to a magazine, we offered a free subscription to *Our Paper*, *A Voice for Lesbians and Gay Men in Maine* to the first person who called in to pledge \$30 or more and asked for the paper. We felt that the full title of the paper should be read so that the person would know what he/she was going to receive. When only *Our Paper* was read on the air, we explained our reasons but were told that the station manager had said *not* to read the whole title. There seems to be some difficulty with the "L-word" and the "G-word". Then, after some further consultation with the membership director by phone, MPBN decided to remove our whole challenge. We then proposed the challenge that we would donate the money directly to MPBN to match the first pledge of \$30 or more phoned in by someone from the Lesbian/Gay/Straight Coalition of Bangor. This challenge was also rejected with the explanation that they had decided (on the spur of the moment?) they could not accept challenges from special interest groups. This even caused them to remove the challenge from the Bangor Peace Initiative. The station is presently working on policy guidelines about what they will or will not accept as challenges in the future.

Our experience with MPBN has somewhat dampened our enthusiasm for helping the station and there is some question of whether as a group we will return to help with the fundraisers in the future. In the light of the recent murder of Charlie Howard and the growing interest in world peace, the rejection of both our challenge and that of the Bangor Peace Initiative seems to be sending the wrong message on the part of the station.

A member of Northern Lambda Nord

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PURPOSE

OUR PAPER is published monthly by the **OUR PAPER Collective**, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, Maine 04104. The purpose of **OUR PAPER** is to serve as a voice for lesbians and gay men in Maine. We wish the newspaper to be a source of information, support and affirmation, and a vehicle for celebration, by and for members of the lesbian and gay men's communities. We want the paper to reflect our diversity, as well.

EDITORIAL POLICY

We will consider for publication any material that broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and of each other. Views and opinions appearing in the paper are those of the authors only.

All material submitted must be signed and include an address and/or phone number, so we can contact the author should we need to consider editorial revisions. However, within the pages of the newspaper, articles can appear anonymously, upon request, and strict confidentiality will be observed. No revisions or rejections of material will occur without dialogue with the author.

We welcome and encourage all our readers to submit material for publication and share your comments, criticisms and positive feelings with us. Remember, **OUR PAPER** is Your Paper!!! **DEADLINE** for each issue is the 10th of the month.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are \$10 for 12 issues. Make checks payable to "OUR PAPER." All submissions and correspondence should be sent to **OUR PAPER**, P.O. BOX 10744, Portland, Maine 04104.

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West Coast Correspondent: John Frank

Impressions at the Bangor District Court July 31, 1984

by Richard Steinman

It was heartwarming to see roughly 20-30 persons similarly attired. They were gathered in the waiting area of Bangor District Court at 9 a.m. on July 31st, the hour for the scheduled hearing as to whether the three juveniles accused of murdering Charles Howard would be tried as adults. There was a strange discontinuity between the golden midsummer morning and the grave issue which had brought us together.

That very day the *Bangor Daily News* had objectively reviewed the facts of the case. It also mentioned that the Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition formed in reaction to the murder, would provide silent witness at the hearing. All in sympathy with its objectives should show up wearing white shirts and lavender ribbons.

The mood of the group was subdued, but without tension. People picked up and passed on information garnered from each other and from passing officials:

1. Judge David Cox was delayed conducting hearings at nearby Bangor Mental Health Institute.
2. The courtroom would only seat about 40 spectators.
3. Coalition members had been keeping a sharp eye in the community to see whether at any time the youths were in violation of the terms of their custody at home. None had been observed.
4. Anger that the youths were living at home must be tempered by a recognition that the purpose of detention is not to punish (before a trial had established guilt or innocence) but to protect the community against a likely recurrence of a crime pending trial.
5. And finally it was rumored amongst courthouse officials that the youths would be tried as juveniles.

The judge finally returned from BMHI but was in conference for at least an hour with attorneys. The long delay stretched to two-and-a-half hours. It became more and more trying for those waiting, because of its indeterminate nature. People tried to relieve the fatigue of waiting by quietly moving from one small group to another and at one point sheriff's deputies politely cleared the corridor which was not separated by any barrier from the adjacent waiting area and its benches.

Peaceful Coexistence?

Roughly a third of the way through the long vigil teenagers in their mid-teens began to arrive by twos and threes, here to give moral support to the accused, and of course to learn the outcome of the hearing. Some of them looked still slightly sleepy. As the Coalition members present grew to 40 in number the teen group reached a maximum of eleven, all but two of them

male. A very subjective impression led me to infer that, with one or two possible exceptions, they were from working class backgrounds. The two groups seemed to co-exist peacefully, as symbolized by one man in a white shirt who consistently engaged in affable conversation the teenagers who from time to time shared his bench. The young people seemed all too ready to reciprocate in kind. As individuals they seemed unthreatening, even shy.

At one point two members of the Coalition approached the deputy sheriffs to point out that those in the corridor consisted entirely of the youths, and to ask whether they would now be asked to return to the waiting area. The sheriff courteously replied that they weren't blocking the corridor. Perhaps two-thirds of the way through the long wait a third group joined what was now the crush in both the corridor and the waiting area; friends or relatives of the accused. The coexistence among the three groups seemed neither friendly nor unfriendly, and lacking tension.

A *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter appeared and moved slowly through the crowd, gathering opinions from the several factions. Because of the fatigue of waiting and the tension of anticipation, members of all three groups milled back and forth into the corridor and were left largely undisturbed by the authorities. However, it seemed clear there would not be room enough for everyone in the courtroom. Therefore people from the several factions tried to place themselves strategically for early entry. But even under these conditions there was no apparent pushing and shoving. In contrast to media reports that the sheriffs ran a tight ship controlling the crowd, they had long since given up on keeping the corridor clear and only made occasional efforts to clear the space immediately in front of the courtroom doors.

The Hearing

As it turned out, everyone was permitted entry, including a dozen standees. The hearing was relatively brief. Judge Cox warned against any public demonstrations: if we were here to learn, the best way to do so was to remain silent and listen. Straight away the State of Maine through the Bangor District Attorney, Mr. Goodwin, recommended that the youths be tried as adults. For the benefit of the juveniles and their families the judge clearly spelled out the issues involved in deciding whether youths could or should be tried as adults, and the consequences of the latter: if found guilty, they must be imprisoned for a minimum of 25 years. Three legal tests must be satisfied, central to which is the seriousness of the

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"Anger Into Love"

by Brian Crabtree

The murder of Charles Howard affected me very deeply. I was appalled by the *Press Herald's* description of him as "very effeminate, sometimes carried a pocketbook." And that was *all!* A person who had been loved and lived as he, saw himself summed up by those few words. Missing from the report was the fact that Charles could not swim and begged his killers not to put him into the water, that he was a compassionate person who visited sick friends and chose to brave the disdain of a small-minded town by being himself. Just as the *Press Herald* and other media have attempted to perpetuate this vision of gays as pocketbook-swinging nobodies, so must we as a community hold tightly to the facts and create in this tragedy a symbol of solidarity.

One can draw obvious parallels to this murder and the murder of Harvey Milk in San Francisco six years ago. Milk was a very outspoken worker for gay rights and had risen to a point of prominence within the city's political structure when he was murdered by a jealous and homophobic co-worker. I remember letters from my friends there during this period. They were confused and hurt, as though what had happened was beyond their realm of comprehension. They were sad and angry. My emotions toward the murder in Bangor were much the same. I felt so alone as I read through the paper's account of his death. The feeling was *not* entirely new.

I have lived in Portland nearly all my life and long ago accepted the social stigma of being openly gay in a small town. I left high school early, in part because the awareness (my own and my peers') of my growing "difference" became intolerable. Dealing with adolescence and being gay was no fun, and support in my age group was extremely scarce. But I managed to survive this period of physical and emotional trauma and adapt to my new-found preference.

However, I've always been and continue to be verbally abused by many people. Whether they saw me as a threat or not had been of little importance until recently when I found it necessary to again ask myself questions. I hadn't spent much time in my anger to analyze people's reasons for lashing out at someone they don't know. For all of New York City's terrible reputation people-wise, I remember when I lived there feeling a great sense of relief when I discovered people were *ignoring* me, leaving me to be who I was. Don't misunderstand this as a desire to fade quietly into vapors! It was simply out of my experience to walk through a neighborhood without being called "cocksucker."

I presume in some ways this abuse we find ourselves dealing with stems from boredom and frustration, especially the

teenage version. I have lived in the area long enough to see one or two of the boys who used to call me those names "become" gay themselves. As anyone can tell you, those teenage years are in large part a confusing shuffle of conflict and hormones, the resulting hand that is dealt often being a surprise.

I have come somewhat to grips with the day-to-day hassles of being "out" and public about it in Portland. I formulate snappy comebacks and once even pulled a boy from his bicycle (he'd been closely following me for blocks, spitting and taunting) and kissed him full on the mouth, informing him that he was now "one of us" and if he continued his heckling, would next time be french-kissed. I've been brought close to violence many times. Charles' murder and the resultant backlash will probably be no exception. But I strive to think of it as a step toward unity and illumination, not back into that darkness I felt I'd never emerge from as a young man.

A couple weeks ago on my way home from dance class, I was called names and shoved three separate times, arriving home in a nervous rage. Then I opened my mail and from my friend Dan in New Hampshire was a card saying simply, "I love you, Brian." I'm convinced that it is in part because of our capacity to love each other and our friends so freely and expressively that we'll nearly always find jealousy and hatred as a counterpoint in some others. The challenge as I see it now is to turn around our days for each other and calm that resultant anger into love.



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Tom Chorlton ran down the Presidential Candidate's movement on gay and lesbian issues. Of all only John Glenn in his opinion "failed to perceive the issue properly." What a nice way to call someone a homophobe.

Ginny Apuzzo and Rick Stafford, (Minnesota), who were 2 of the 6 openly gay members of the Platform Committee told of the politicking there and the receptivity of the committee to our issue. Both agreed our success was due to grassroots support in all the states. I had called Janet Mills, Maine's platform committee person to lobby her on gay issues and found her to be supportive. I'm glad she was supportive because it was the first time I tried to lobby anyone and I was nervous.

By this time I was exhausted. It was 8 p.m. Eastern time and I'd had no dinner. No sooner had I laid down on a bench when Don Levit, who was acting as Press Secretary for the National Association came over to say that the photographer from the San Francisco Chronicle was here to photograph me for the profiles they were doing of 20 typical delegates. You have to understand that everyone out there thought that Maine electing a lesbian delegate was the greatest thing since sliced bread. Much neater than a gay delegate from one of the usual states. Some called me Ms. Maine.

A nice woman named Carole from one of the SF Democratic Clubs gave me a ride to John's. John and I were so glad to see each other. We hugged alot and then he showed me to my room. Such accommodations. We went to a little Chicano place for supper and had enchiladas and refried beans. I loved it. At 9 p.m. I collapsed and fell asleep.

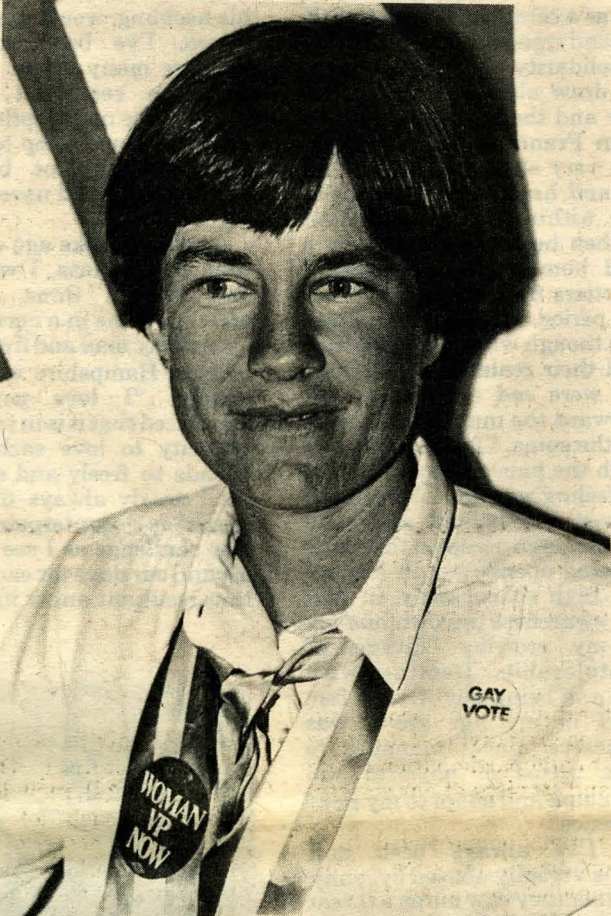


photo: Ron Otley

SATURDAY JULY 14

Morning	Final session of the National Association Meeting
Afternoon	First meeting of the Lesbian and Gay Delegates Caucus
Evening	Reception for openly gay and lesbian delegates and elected officials

It was a beautiful morning—rare for SF—so I walked the 15 blocks to the conference. Upon arriving I was met with intense politicking around the election of officers rivalry between the two coasts and between the Democratic Clubs in SF. The political sophistication of gay people from the cities continually surprised me and made me feel a bit naive. This puzzled me since back home I can go for weeks without feeling naive. I finally concluded that alot of my feelings were caused by the city/country dichotomy. Whew!

The politicking was interrupted by the arrival of Judy Goldsmith, Pres. of NOW, to address the Conference. She is a great speaker and got off a truly great line: "I was deeply pleased at the political symbolism inherent when Mondale appointed Ferraro. Reagan was in a cave."

The first meeting of the Lesbian and Gay Caucus met at 3 p.m. We all were given, red, white and blue satin ribbons with buttons that proclaimed that we were members of the Caucus to wear around our necks. It made us look like Olympic champions, increased our visibility and made cruising easier. I was proud to wear the ribbon and very excited to be in the Caucus. I was sitting next to Tim Cole (MN) who I could tell was also filled with feelings. We gave each other a spontaneous hug and this, of course, was the moment that the CBS Evening News chose to air. When I arrived back in Maine, my friend Marilyn said, "We send you out to SF as our lesbian delegate and this is what you do?"

The first order of business was the election of officers. We elected 2 co-chairs (male and female), 4 vice-chairs and 6 whips. I was elected an at-large whip. (Before you get any ideas, a whip is a floor organizer who helps get the word about meetings or floor demonstrations to all the delegates.) I was continually impressed by the gender and racial balance of the officials we elected. After the whips' names had been put on the board a murmur went around the room as we realized we couldn't have done it better if we tried: 3 were women and 3 were black. I think all the consciousness raising the women's and gay movements have done about race and other oppressions has done some good.

The reception was packed. Electoral politics is a big deal with gay people in California. Sen. Cranston spoke but I didn't hear him as I was outside with a case of claustrophobia. There was a whole other party going on out there. I met Rep. Karen Clark of MN, the highest elected lesbian in the country. We had a nice talk and she encouraged me to run for office. There are alot of gay elected officials: David Scondras and Brian Coyle, City Councilors from Boston and Minneapolis; the Mayor of Santa Cruz; and Harry Britt, SF Supervisor. It turns out that Carole, the woman who gave me a ride to John's, is the Pres. of the Harvey Milk Gay and Lesbian Democratic Club and ran unsuccessfully for College Board. She even has a campaign debt.

SUNDAY JULY 15

Morning	Women's Caucus
Afternoon	National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights
Evening	State dinner for the Maine Delegation

A friend and I walked over to the Saint Francis Hotel for the Women's Caucus. "Everybody" was there; Abzug, Freidan, Pat Shroeder, Lynn Cutler etc. It was mostly speeches with little interaction or strategy.

Next we hopped a cable car to the San Franciscans for Hart reception for the lesbian and gay delegates. What a beautiful day! What views! A lone cloud was clinging to Alcatraz Island. The apartment was gorgeous with more views of the Bay and the food was great. A person can easily never have to buy a meal all week if s/he works it right. That's partly why I'm here.

I fell in with Russ Brubaker of Washington, one of the gay members of the Platform Committee, who said he sat next to our very own Janet Mills on the Judiciary subcommittee and that she was a good ally and alot of fun. He and I were driven over to Castro and Market Streets where the march was forming and took our places in the leading contingent of openly gay and lesbian delegates and elected officials. It was incredible. There were 150,000 people there. I marched arm in arm with Tim and Russ. TV cameras, photographers and radio reporters followed us for blocks. It was quite athletic for them. After we had marched the 3 miles to the Moscone Center, it took the rest of the marchers 1½ hours to arrive.

Two speakers at the rally moved me deeply. One was Cesar Chavez, who said that lesbians and gay men had been with the Farmworkers Union since the beginning and he wanted to come here and support us. He led us in a VIVA Lesbian and Gay Rights! The other was Bobbi Campbell, a courageous man with AIDS, who is working tirelessly to educate other gay men about how to have safe sex. I had never met a man with AIDS and it moved me to see him continue with his political work even though he knew he was going to die. He had the greatest response to religious arguments against gay people that I have ever heard. He said, "I am now going to repeat everything that Jesus said about gays." Then he stood there silently until a roar rose from the crowd when we realized that that's exactly what Jesus had to say about us, nothing.

I arrived back at the hotel feeling hot and sweaty after a day of marching to find 13 Hart delegates in my room. They had just arrived from Maine where they had been reading the papers. They wanted to know why I was switching to Jackson. As I inched toward the shower, I told them that I had never switched and was merely trying to work out a compromise for the good of the Party. They said that Hart had a chance because Mondale's first ballot margin was dwindling. I decided that I had pushed it enough and made my point. I acquiesced.

A half hour later the members of the Maine Delegation were bussed to Dr. and Ann Eliaser's house for a catered dinner. We were all dressed in our best and awaited the arrival of the Governor and his party who came an hour late dressed in tennis shorts. They had been at an athletic club. It was quite bizarre.

MONDAY JULY 16

Morning	First meeting of the Maine Delegation
Afternoon	Convention begins
Evening	"Oh What A Night" Party for all Delegates

I had a breakfast meeting with Ray O'Loughlin and a photographer who are following my travels for a piece in the ADVOCATE. As we were heading back to the hotel, they asked if they could get a picture of me with some party officials. These guys think big! As if on cue Barry Hobbins came up and said he wanted to get together back in Maine to talk about his campaign and gay issues. I asked him if he'd mind being in a picture for a gay weekly. Chick O'Leary of the AFL/CIO & James Paxton also said yes, so while we stood for the photos, I teased Barry that since he's used the word "sexual orientation" at the state convention, we'll have to move him up to the L-word and the G-word.

We picked up our credentials at the Delegation meeting. They look like a dollar bill with a hologram on them and when the light catches the hologram its very pretty. We will get a new one everyday. We also received tons of presents: 2 bottles of wine, a poster and a miniature cable car from the mayor; a clipboard and a denim bag from Newsweek and Levi's; jelly from Hawaii; a toothbrush from the Hilton; drugs; a cork screw from Sonoma County; buttons and a sash from Knox Co. ME; and best of all a handful of potato pins with Maine written on them to trade with other delegates. Oh yes, and down at the bottom of one of these bags was a copy of the Platform, Rules, and official booklets.

Although the Lesbian and Gay Caucus is officially recognized by the Democratic Party, we were not given an official room to meet in. We were crammed into a suite at the Hilton until the Rev. Cecil Williams of Glide Memorial Church across the street gave us a space. Today's agenda was voting on the five minority planks to the platform: no first use of nuclear weapons, reduction in defense spending, affirmative action, secondary primaries, and non-intervention in Central America. We voted to support them all, but there was concern on the part of a few delegates that we not water down our issue and only take stand on topics that relate to gays. I and others spoke up saying that we were elected by a coalition of progressive groups and that supporting these planks was fulfilling the expectations of those who elected us.

continued on page 5

OH, WE LOVE THE DOSH
ALBERTA'S! IT MAKES US
SING!

Open nightly for dinner, every
weekday for lunch....

ALBERTA'S
RESTAURANT 774-5408
21 PLEASANT ST. PORTLAND

Who wouldn't love the mesquite-grilled features, the fresh seafood, the late-night dining, pizza, classic pop music, swell atmosphere, air-conditioning, fine wines and beers, and numerous other swank attractions?

MC/VISA

Our People:—Leather, Sex and Politics:—

An Interview with three Harbor Masters

by Elze

For this month's OUR PEOPLE, Elze ventured, with some fear and trepidation, into what was, for me, unfamiliar territory and interviewed Ralph and Butch, two members of Harbor Masters, Inc., Portland's levi/leather/S&M group, and Toy, a man who was then pledging the group. Harbor Masters, Inc. is the only organized levi/leather/S&M group in Maine that they knew of at the time the interview was conducted. As you will see, the interview turned out to be more than just an interview about the club. Ralph, Butch and Toy shared their personal stories, their personal lives, as well as information and their perspectives on the club.

Why did I choose to interview the Harbor Masters? Because I like doing interviews. Because, at least in Portland, we've been hearing more and more about the Harbor Masters. Because I was curious. Because it was for me, very unfamiliar ground on which to tread. Because S&M has certainly been a controversial issue within the lesbian community. And because I thought they'd have some important and interesting (yes, it was quite interesting) perspectives to share, at least with gay men. And I emerged from the interview with some new information: That I had walked in with a bunch of stereotypes that were ultimately shattered. That I, who identifies myself as a lesbian-feminist and thought I was beyond stereotyping, still need to watch that process within myself. That I enjoyed sharing some time with these very warm and friendly men. And, to give myself at least one stroke, that I overcame some of my fear of the unknown, at least enough to do the interview.

DE: What is Harbor Masters and can you share with us the history of the group, its focus, organizational structure?

R: The Harbor Masters is a fraternal social group trying to maintain a positive masculine identity. We are a group of men — no women — our by-laws do not, though they may soon have to, have the wording for the acceptance of women. We just became incorporated and we have to file our by-laws with the State. But, as it stands right now, we have no provisions for having women members. But, we're not really a sexist group.

B: We are a membership organization. We have different types of membership — full memberships within a 60-mile radius of Portland, and associate memberships who are usually members of other clubs throughout Boston, some in Western Massachusetts, a couple in New York, upstate Maine. We also have an association with the New England Club Council which is a council of clubs, such as the Harbor Masters, throughout all of the New England states — two of which are women's clubs. Eventually we could develop associate memberships for women, but not full memberships.

R: There are clubs like ours all over the world. We get correspondence from Germany, Sweden, Australia, as well as most of the States.

DE: When you say "clubs like ours," what do you mean?

B: Levi/leather/S&M clubs — fraternal groups. Leather fraternities.

R: We'll be celebrating our two-year anniversary Veterans Day Weekend. That's our official anniversary date, our big celebration. The club got started over a beer.

"The Harbor Masters is a fraternal social group trying to maintain a positive masculine identity."

B: When Ralph and I moved to Portland, we had both come from the Midwest and both been members of other clubs. We came up here and thought that Portland needed a certain masculinity to its gay crowd, something we thought was seriously lacking. We did not know anybody else. We tried to find other people that were willing to form a club.

R: We found some people, but they just fell by the wayside. They'd say, "Sure, we'd love to start a club. That sounds great." We'd all go to Boston and hang around with the clubs down there, but that's as far as it ever got with these people. It takes a lot of work.

B: Then we got together at a charity auction at the Spring Street Gym and met Tom C., Tom S. and John Preston, our other three founding members. They had kicked around the idea also but, again, could not find enough people interested. So, the five of us that night sat down and said, "Yes, we will do this." They even had a name all picked out for it — the Harbor Masters, and we went from there.

R: We have about eighteen members right now. The meetings are held in people's homes; we try to rotate. We have members from Lewiston to Kittery. We do invite guests. If somebody says they want to come to a meeting, or if somebody wants to invite somebody to a meeting, they're welcome to come along. If there's anything in particular we don't think should be brought into the public eye, then we go into closed session just like any meeting would.

We have seven officers and we give them nautical names. Our President is our Captain. The next rank down on board ship would usually be the Executive Officer — that's myself, that's the Vice-President. The name Harbor Masters came from John Preston and Tom S. Butch and I had thought of the Sons of Neptune. We were all thinking nautical.

DE: Butch, a couple of minutes ago you said "a masculinity" was missing in the gay community when you and Ralph came to Portland. What did you mean?

B: Roland's had burned before we moved up and the only place to go was The Underground, and The Underground crowd was mostly younger kids. I think younger kids when they first come out, myself included, think that their gay identity has to be "effeminate." I used to sit on my front porch in Milwaukee with a fan — real campy. Coming here, that's what we found. We know there is more to being gay than being effeminate. We are homosexual because we like other men. We do not like men who look like women. I think what was missing when we came into being was a choice. Now that we are here, people see that being gay doesn't just mean being effeminate. You don't have to be that way to be gay.

R: That's where our definition of masculinity comes in. If I'm going to go pick something up, I'm going to pick up a man. If I want a woman, I'll pick up a woman. I want a man. I don't want someone who looks and acts like a woman.

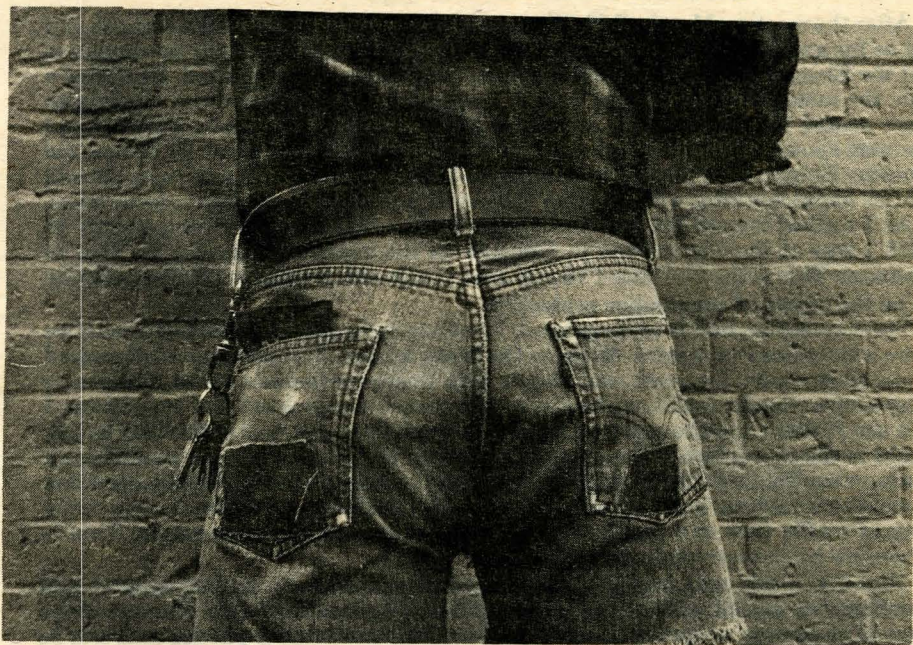
DE: Why not?

B: It's not what turns me on.

DE: Butch, you raised an interesting point when you said that when you came out, you thought there was only one way to be gay. Can you say more about that?

B: Milwaukee was a very effeminate town at the time. That's where I came out. I was in the service. Most of the people who were in the military who were known and spotted as gay were very effeminate. When I got out I lived in Milwaukee for about two years, and Milwaukee had only two people that I knew of who were into levi/leather, or just the wearing of leather. They were the only ones I ever saw out. I had no idea about their sexual preferences. That's where I first heard the term "leather queens". And they were just steered away from and I thought it was just something to "Ha Ha — Hee Hee" at, and I'd look at them and wonder what they ever did in bed.

photo: John Preston



R: I grew up in Portland. There was never any leather in Portland. Everybody was more or less the same. Either you were "quiet" or you were "loud". And if loud was being effeminate, then that's fine. That's how everybody was. But if you were quiet, you were the ones who sat at the bar, you didn't go on the dance floor, you talked with the bartender, you talked with each other. It was usually an older set. It was the quiet set. If "loud" was effeminate, then we were. That's the way I was.

I moved away from Portland and found there was an option. My first lover changed me. I met him here. I had just got out of the Navy. He was still in the Navy stationed in Brunswick. When he got out, we moved to St. Louis where he was from. And that's where my world opened up. There were a lot of different aspects of gay life.

T: I don't think I went through an effeminate stage. I was married when I came out. I came out in Jamestown, New York — a small community with one bar. I gradually knew that what I was doing was fine, but I felt there had to be more sexually and then I had my first experience with bondage. I was dating someone and I trusted him enough to get into the bondage. I left there and went to Syracuse and about a month later I met this guy who I found really came on to me. He was the janitor of the building I lived in. One day he came up next to me and said these dirty comments and turned me on. And I thought, "Hmmm...Maybe something can happen here." I found Harry and I getting together more often and getting into deeper, rougher, raunchier sex, and liking it, and getting more into the leather scene as well. It was more of a gradual pull into it. But, I was out about a year before I got into bondage. So, I don't think I ever went through being effeminate.

DE: Are there negative attitudes within the club towards more "effeminate" gay men?

R: It's not club policy.

T: As someone relatively new to the club, I see that as an individual preference, as far as which club members associate with those who are more effeminate. As a club policy, the club basically only admits as members those who are masculine.

R: No, you can't say that. We had two drag queens.

T: But at the same time, they've got to have some masculine qualities to get in.

B: That's right.

DE: What is the criteria for membership?

R: It's more of a matter of personal taste, as far as who wants to accept who into the club. The requirements for joining the club are simple. You get an application and fill it out. There's a small application fee which covers, if you're accepted, your back patch and your breast patch. The application is presented to the club at a general meeting. The person is welcome to attend and introduce himself. He has to get two sponsors signatures on his application. During the next period of time, from one meeting to the next — usually about 30 days, it is his responsibility to get to know as many people as possible. It's not a sexual thing at all. It's so people can know who they're voting on. At the next scheduled meeting, the application is brought up for a vote into pledgeship — which Toy is right now. The votes are done by private ballot, simple majority of the quorum.

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CYCLES
59 Center Street
Portland, Maine
207/772-7264

FRI. 9/7 LEWISTON / AUGUSTA NIGHT
2nd & 3rd bar liquor drinks or domestic beer free with this ad if you live in Lewiston or north

SAT. 9/28 MR. NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND LEATHER CONTEST

compete for an all expense paid trip to munich, germany

FOR DETAILS CONTACT CYCLES

"cycles is offering a \$100 reward for information leading to the arrest of the assailants of a gay man in the park on 8/16"

Special Our Paper
Pullout Section

A·U·T·U·M·N·F·E·S·T

Maine's Celebration of Gay and Lesbian Life September 13th - 19th, 1984



Thursday

Sept. 13
7:00-10:30 PM
\$2.00 Donation
Cash Bar

AUTUMNFEST Art Show
Portland School of Art
Auditorium
619 Congress Street
Art work by local gay and lesbian
artists.

Friday

Sept. 14
12-8:00 PM

Art Show continues

8:00 PM
FREE

Pat Califia, author and the Advocate
Advisor. *"Why Sex Has Become a Four-
letter Word in the Gay and Lesbian
Movement."*

Science Building Auditorium (Room 165)
Science Building Auditorium
(Room 165)
University of Southern Maine

Saturday

Sept. 15
10-11:30 AM
FREE

Workshops: Luther Bonney Hall, U.S.M.
"Gay Parenting" - Frank Brooks, Rm 402
"Gay Political Organizing" - Eric Rofes
and Dale McCormick, Room 403
"Gays in the Military" - Diane Matthews,
Room 410
"Lesbian S&M" - Pat Califia and Jo
Arnone, Room 402
"Coming Out as a Professional" -
Rev. Barry Wood, M.D., Room 403
"Gays and the Media" - Mark Johnston,
Editor, Bay Windows, Room 410

continued on page 8



Pat Califia was one of the original founders of Samois, a Lesbian S&M collective in San Francisco. As one of that group's most active members she was central to the editorial work that produced *Coming To Power*, the first and most famous anthology on Lesbian S&M.

Though Califia may be most controversial for her involvement in S&M, she's by no means limited to that one arena. Her own book, *Sapphisty*, is a general work on lesbian sexuality.

While many people "in the movement" focus on her membership in Samois and on her self-published newsletter, she's in fact best known to the average gay person as the "Advocate Advisor." Our own version of Ann Landers, she dispenses humanistic advice and level headed counsel to the readers of the country's largest gay publication every issue.

While she still does write the Advocate Advisor column and contributes features to the newspaper, Califia recently gave up her staff position there to move to New York where she

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▲ HARBOR MASTERS, INC. ▲ GAY PEOPLES ALLIANCE ▲

Califia....

currently lives in Queens leading the life of a lesbian "housewife" — according to her own description.

The typewriter's still hot, though, and Califia is currently working on a volume of short erotic pieces which she hopes will be published in the next year.

Controversial, but always warmly humane, interested in the erotic, but never losing sight of the human needs involved in sex, and one of the best writers we have today, Califia is making her first visit to Maine during Autumnfest.

Saturday

**2:00-4:00 PM
FREE**

**Booksigning
Our Books**

4 Pine Street

Pat Califia, author of *Sapphisty: The Book of Lesbian Sexuality*

Dale McCormick, *Against the Grain: A Carpentry Manual for Women*

John Preston, *Sweet Dreams, Franny*, etc.

Eric Rofes, *"I Thought People Like That Killed Themselves": Lesbians, Gay Men and Suicide.*

**7:00 PM
\$17.50 per person**

THE AUTUMNFEST DINNER

Eric Rofes, Speaker

"A New Age: Lesbians, Gay Men and Politics."

Verrillo's Restaurant

155 Riverside St.

Portland, Me. (Exit 8)



Eric Rofes

Eric Rofes is the chair of the Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance. He originally moved to Boston to attend Harvard University. (He's an active

member of that university's gay alumni group.) After graduation Rofes became a teacher at the progressive Fayerweather Street School in Cambridge.

He's written a number of books for children drawing on his teaching experience. *The Kids' Book of Divorce*, *The Kids' Book About Parents* and *The Kids' Book About Death And Dying* all are unique in their reliance on children's first hand reporting on what those emotional traumas and issues are like to them, themselves.

Rofes has long insisted on his occupation and his politics being integrated. Often interviewed in the national media for his educational activities, he will always make sure his audience understands that the teacher who's talking is a gay man.

His story about this integration of the different parts of his

life will soon be shared in a forthcoming autobiographical work *Socrates, Plato and Guys Like Me*.

Rofes has a deep commitment to the gay world and all the forces that act within it and upon it. A major contribution to understanding the psychological repressions that can destroy members of the community was his well received *"I Thought People Like That Killed Themselves": Lesbians, Gay Men And Suicide*.

Rofes is a powerful speaker with a firm vision of the gay and lesbian worlds. He is a proven advocate for gay rights, a strong spokesman for gay dignity and a dynamic leader.

Sunday

**Sept. 16
10:00 AM**

Worship Service

First Parish Church

425 Congress Street

**12:00-5:00 PM
FREE**

**(Space available
to rent for
vendors)**

9:00 PM

**AUTUMNFEST Street Fair and
Flea Market**

**University of Southern Maine campus
(Gymnasium in case of bad weather)**

**The Nunnettes and McLetter & the
Stamps. A benefit at the Underground,
3 Spring St., Portland. Proceeds go to
Gay Health Action Committee and
Our Paper**

Monday

**Sept. 17
2:00 PM**

**Workshop with John Stoltenberg,
"Changing Men and Pornography"**

Payson-Smith Hall, Room 205

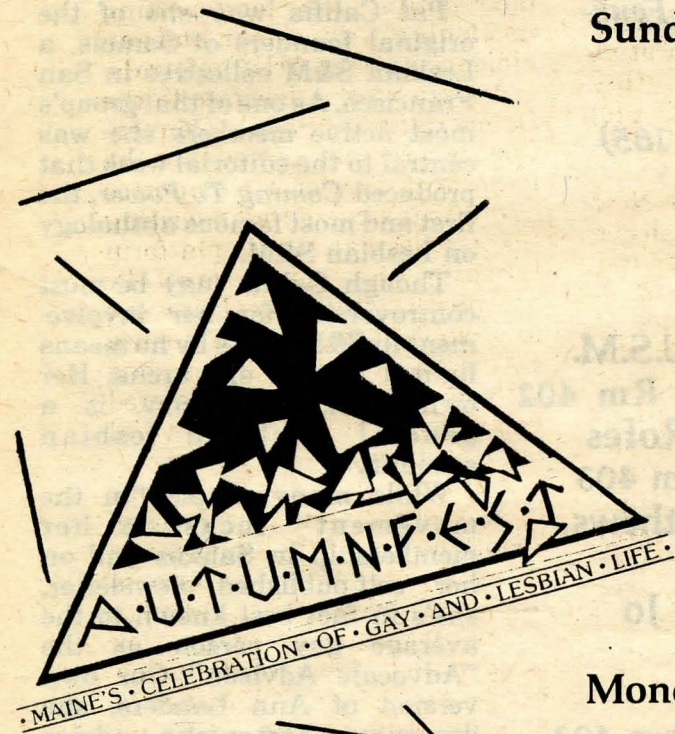
**8:00 PM
FREE**

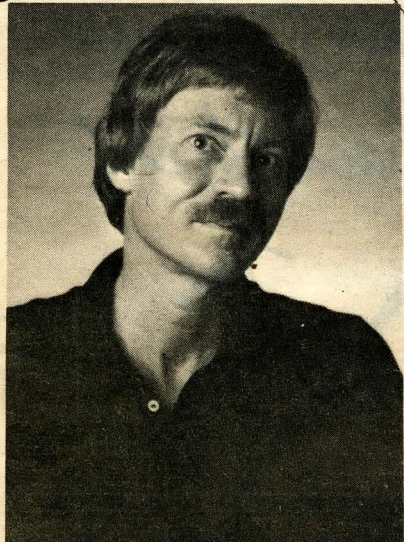
**John Stoltenberg
"Feminism and Gay Liberation"**

Luther Bonney Auditorium

University of Southern Maine

**Sponsored by the Women's Forum at
USM**





John Stoltenberg

John Stoltenberg is a writer, editor, and antipornography activist. He was born in Minnesota and was graduated in 1966 from St. Olat, College, where he majored in philosophy. During the mid-1960's to mid-1970's, John completed extensive graduate work in theology, literature, playwriting, and theater arts.

In 1974 his writing changed course: he began writing nonfiction, essays, and speeches about issues of sexuality and politics. In the past ten years, many of these have been published in various journals and anthologies, including *For Men Against Sexism* and *Against Sadoomasochism: A Radical Feminist Analysis*, where his article "Sadomasochism: Eroticized Violence, Eroticized Powerlessness" appears. His recent publications include "Other Men" and "On Gay Male Pornography and 'Good Sex,'" both in the profeminist men's journal *M*.

He has been a speaker at the past four national Men and Masculinity conferences, most recently in Washington, D.C., where he gave a major presentation titled "Pornography, Homophobia, and Freedom." He currently cochairs the Task Group on Pornography of the antisexist, profeminist, progay National Organization for Changing Men and recently cofounded Men Against Pornography, a new group in New York City that conducts workshops about pornography primarily for men. Through an experiential exercise and guided discussion, the workshops are designed to help men understand for themselves how pornography subordinates women.

John lives in New York City, where he works as a writer and magazine editor.

Tuesday

Sept. 18
7:30 PM
FREE

9:30 PM
FREE

Virginia Apuzzo

"Struggle and Achievements:
Maine and the National Gay Movement"
First Parish Church
425 Congress St.

Reception for Ms. Apuzzo
Sheraton Inn - Ballroom B
South Portland
(across from the Maine Mall)

Also: Saturday, Sept. 15 through Tuesday, Sept. 18, "Olivia" and "Consequences" at the Movies, 10 Exchange St., Portland (see details).

Gay Films at the Movies

In conjunction with Autumnfest, the Movies at 10 Exchange St. in Portland will show two gay films from Saturday, Sept. 15 through Tuesday, Sept. 18.

"Olivia", produced in France in 1951, was written, directed (Jacqueline Audry) and acted by women. Based on the novel by Dorothy Bussy, it is described as the "lush and sensuous picture of love at a turn-of-the-century girls' school." Simone Simon and Edwige Feuillere star as the school's headmistresses, each with her own coterie of girls.

"The Consequence" was produced in Germany in 1979. It is directed by Wolfgang Peterson who also directed the award-winning "Das Boot". "The Consequence" is a poignant love story between a man who is jailed for "unnatural activities" and the beautiful teenage son of the brutal prison guard. The parents and a rigid social system conspire to shatter the relationship.

"The Consequence" will be shown at 7:00 each evening and "Olivia" will be shown at 9:00. On Sunday, Sept. 16 "The Consequence" will also be shown at 2:30 and "Olivia" at 4:30. From 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on that day Steve Halpert, owner of the Movies and a professor at Westbrook College, will lead a discussion of the two films.

Richard Steinman worked with Mr. Halpert to set up this exciting and unique (for Portland) opportunity to view two out-of-the-mainstream gay films.

Autumnfest

is co-sponsored by the

Gay People's Alliance
and
Harbor Masters, Inc.



Virginia Apuzzo

Virginia Apuzzo is a charismatic and enthusiastic gay activist. She is the Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force, the oldest and largest gay civil rights organization in the country.

Once described by the New York Times as a "shirt sleeve politician" because of her determined nature, Apuzzo is convinced of the importance of broad public education as the foundation for gaining gay civil rights. To this end Apuzzo has most recently met with White House and Administration officials and has also testified before Congress on several occasions. These appearances represent vital breakthroughs for NGTF, enhancing lesbian/gay visibility and influence and resulting in a major increase in AIDS research funding.

Apuzzo has also worked with her staff to establish a number of new programs including an anti-lesbian and gay survey which documents need for services and

prompted the Crisisline, a 24-hour hotline used for reporting incidents of anti-lesbian and gay violence and for AIDS referrals.

Apuzzo was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention where she served on the important Platform Committee and was instrumental in writing the gay/lesbian rights platform which was unanimously accepted by the party. Her work to promote local gay and lesbian voter registration drives has yielded many newly registered voters from Maine and several thousand across the country.

While much of Apuzzo's work is at the national level, she is keenly aware of the importance of work done at the grassroots level. She makes every attempt to do as much public speaking as she can. In her own words during her February visit to Portland, a national organization is nothing without "backbone groups and individuals like those in Maine. You are making all this happen."

And yes, Virginia Apuzzo is an ex-nun!

NO COVER CHARGE!
during Autumnfest at the Underground

• limit one coupon per person •

Special Thanks to...

Bill's Pasta House
The Underground
Spring St. Gym
Cycles

Seacoast Gay Men
Women's Forum
Backstreet
The
Café

A • U • T • U • M • N • F • E • S • T

The Harbor Masters, Inc.

The Harbor Masters was formed two years ago by a group of men interested in a leather/levis lifestyle and also committed to being a positive force in gay life in Maine.

Active in social events throughout the Northeast, the Harbor Masters are also pursuing a role in the gay community of Maine in the tradition of American fraternal organizations.

The Harbor Masters have raised money for gay defense funds such as Terry Wallace's, contributed to the Maine Health Foundation's work on AIDS related issues, has co-sponsored a voter registration drive with the GPA and been active in other charitable community activities.

Autumnfest is a celebration of what is and what will be. Faced with a constant denial of basic human rights through the acts of bigots and through the inaction of our political system, it's important that we take time out to remember that we've come a long way, and that we're going to be going even further.

We can't — we **shouldn't** — forget the tragedies that can befall us, the murder of Charlie Howard, beatings in Deering Oaks and in Bath, the sadness that is part of too many of our lives.

But Autumnfest reminds us that we've become a community that can celebrate, we have organizations, social networks, and a growing number of victories to prove it.

In another time or another place, adversity might have forced a group of people like ourselves to hide, to give up trying and to stop dreaming.

But the time is now and the place is here. Autumnfest is dedicated to the memory of people like Charlie Howard and to the promise that there will be no more Charlie Howards.

We are becoming.

Lewiston Gay/Lesbian Coalition

Northern Lambda Nords

The Gay People's Alliance is a student organization of the University of Southern Maine. Since its birth 8 years ago, GPA has grown from a student support group to one of the most active lesbian and gay organizations in Maine with services provided on campus and throughout the state.

Our regularly scheduled Gay Parents Support group, Lesbian Support/Discussion group and GPA Discussion group offer places for gay men and lesbians to meet, learn and support one another.

The GPA also offers referral services for a spectrum of personal needs, from roommates and housing to gay-sensitive counselors and physicians.

Through our lending library of gay and lesbian books and by providing guest speakers to talk with community groups we attempt to educate those who are naive about gay life.

We believe that lesbian and gay liberation is a necessary component of human liberation and recognize that unity is crucial for social change; we welcome opportunities to work with those who share our commitment to end all forms of oppression and violence.



For more info:

Gay People's Alliance
92 Bedford Street
Portland, Maine 04103
780-4085 (Area Code 207)

Harbor Masters, Inc.
Box 4044
Station "A"
Portland, Maine 04101
774-3865 (Area Code 207)

Autumnfest Book-Signing Party

Saturday, September 15, 1984

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

at

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John Preston
author of

Franny, The Queen of Provincetown
Mr. Benson
I Once Had A Master
Sweet Dreams

Pat Califia
author of
an editor of

Sapphistry: The Book of Lesbian
Coming To Power Sexuality

Eric Rofes
author of

I Thought People Like That Killed
Themselves

Dale McCormick
author of

Against The Grain:
A Carpentry Manual for Women

(Feel free to bring your own copies to be signed.)

T: Before I was a pledge, I was an associate member when I was still living in Albany. For the time of my pledgship, which is normally three months, my responsibilities are to go to as many club functions as I possibly can, do what I am told to do by the executive officers and members — for example, if we're at an out-of-town function and the Captain says to get him a beer, I go get him a beer.

DE: Does that include sex?

T: I don't have to do anything sexually as part of my pledgship. So, as a pledge, I have to be involved as much as I can. You are supposed to, if at all possible, attend one out-of-town function — a run to another club, for example. So, at the same time you're displaying that commitment and interest, you're getting to know club members and they're getting to know you. So, if you are a real queen, it's going to show during that time, and if people don't like you because of that, you're not going to get voted in.

"I think younger kids when they first come out, myself included, think that their gay identity has to be 'effeminate'...I think what was missing when we came into being was a choice...You don't have to be that way to be gay."

DE: But what about those attitudes towards more effeminate gay men? Among leather/levi men, it sounds like there are negative attitudes towards more effeminate gay men that go beyond just being a matter of "not being turned on". I feel it's damaging when there's an attitude that "you hurt the gay community if you act like the stereotyped gay male." It's a divide and conquer dynamic.

R: I run into those attitudes not necessarily among the leather/levi set. I got that from a lot of customers. Cycles was started to be and is still trying to be a men's bar — a positive masculine attitude. The customers that go there like to go there because it's not full of what they term as "twinkies" who go to the Underground — the effeminate men they don't wish to associate with. But they're not necessarily a leather group. Not everyone who goes to Cycles is involved in leather sex. That's a stigma that Cycles had for awhile, especially when the Harbor Masters started coming into the public eye — that everyone who went to Cycles was into leather sex. That's not necessarily true. Those customers were at cycles for that same reason. They didn't wish to associate with the men who would go to the Underground.

DE: I feel it takes courage for a more "effeminate" man to be who he is because he's not passing as a straight. Of course, it takes courage for all of us to be who we are. But, I think that those of us who are living quite "blatantly" take a different kind of risk.

B: That may be true. But I would call members of the Harbor Masters, myself included, just as much of a "blatant homosexual" as some drag. I go to work, I wear a wedding band which he has a match to, and he's come up several times to my workplace, and they know he's my roommate. We make no point to hide our rings. We both wear much of the same jewelry. We both have pierced tits and I have to undress in the locker room and everybody sees that. I wear my keys. I wear my hankies. If I'm at the bar and I get called out, I have some of that stuff on. I don't go with my leather hat and vest on. I don't tell anyone, but if I was asked I probably wouldn't deny it.

I used to be very down on effeminate gay men after I got out of that stage. I thought it was just something they had to get through, grow out of, and if they didn't, it was an identity problem. I don't feel that way as much anymore. I feel they are, in their own way, although it's not my way, doing their part for the gay movement.

"But not all of our members are into leather sex...It really runs the gamut...But we don't turn each other off or down or away because of our sexual preferences."

DE: Pat Califia has written about how we must not push out those groups within our community who are "on the fringes," so to speak, who are not the more "mainstream" gays and lesbians, who straight society has a harder time with.

T: I would agree to that. It was the drag queens at Stonewall who fought back. I see with the Harbor Masters, those whom I know most, that they associate with many different people, whether the person is very queeny or very masculine. When it comes to the personal choice of sex, that's where the line is drawn. I don't see the club as one that pushes people aside. If it did, I wouldn't be a part of it. We have our individual differences as far as personalities who like certain people and personalities who are looking for certain things in bed. We are involved in the community.

R: As far as the Harbor Masters, we don't have a stigma as far as age either, which is something that is prevalent among the community. Our youngest member is 23 and we have much older members too. As a club, we choose to have a minimum age of 21 because in many states the legal age is 21 and we can't take the risk of bringing someone underage to an out-of-state function. So, that's for legal reasons. And, we have members who are into disco, who are into the hairstyles of today — the more unisex style. We have a diverse group of men in our club.

DE: So, what happens after the pledgship?

R: At the end of those three months, the application is brought back up for acceptance into full membership. If people don't feel they know the pledge well enough, or if they feel he hasn't gotten out and about enough, he could go through another month's pledgship. Or, he might be denied full membership right there. That hasn't happened often.

B: But it's not at all the fact that people might not be turned on by the person. Very little sex happens between club members.

R: As far as we go, there are about three members we have sex with. We choose not to have sex with club members. We're affiliated with them enough. We see them all the time; we don't need that other emotional connection. But the ones we do have sex with, we had sex with them before they were Harbor Masters. So, why stop?

DE: When you say it's a leather/levi/S&M club, what do you mean by the "leather" and the "levi". Why leather? Why levi?

B: By definition, levi/western clubs are people who are into the dress or the drag of the cowboys. That's where that originally came from. The "leather people" are the well-known "leather queens," the "old bikers." They always wear their leather out even if it's 101 degrees in the shade and they're dripping sweat. They're both very masculine images and these are what the clubs originally sprung out from. It also is sexual. Levi meaning a lot of spanking, bondage — being tied up, especially with rope, as in a western — "hog tie 'em". In the leather set there's handcuffs, a more severe bondage, more of a mental and physical appearance of master/slave roles.

R: Leather sex is usually referred to as "rough sex". *Drummer* magazine ran an article on it and called it "X-sex" and said it can be dangerous to your health. Leather/levi is synonymous with S&M sex.

DE: So leather/levi identifies the kind of sexuality or sexual practices the members of the club are into.

B: But not all of our members. I think our members' sexual experiences and preferences run from masturbation on the telephone to mutual masturbation to voyeurism, all the way up to fist-fucking or something like that. It really runs the gamut. Some of our own members are turned off by our other members who are into fist-fucking and they say, "Oh, I could just never do that." But we don't turn each other off or down or away because of our sexual preferences.

"The Underground is probably the most crowded place you'd ever want to go to. But we go in there...and probably have a good two-foot clearance around us anywhere we'd want to go...people just move out of the way...It's a total thing of fear of the unknown."

T: As an example, in Albany there's a club — it's still there — and they had a lot of problems and one group disbanded from the club because of the issue of fisting. One group wanted it and the other group didn't, and they didn't want any part of it or any part of the people doing it at the club parties, so they basically broke off. So, even within the clubs there are differences. But in that club, the members weren't understanding of one another. In the Harbor Masters, they are.

DE: So it wasn't just a matter of people's individual preferences, but of what people were doing at club parties.

T: This particular club had what they called quarterly parties. The club got together, as well as friends of the club, and they had a big bash with usually 40 to 50 people, and it was nothing but a weekend of sex. And when the fisting really got going and more people seemed to be going into fisting, this one group really didn't like it.

DE: Do the Harbor Masters have such group parties?

R: We have social functions but not often do they turn into group sex. A few have, but they were after-hours parties and everybody knows there's a good chance that's what will be going on at an after-hours party.

T: From what I know about clubs, this club in Albany was very unusual as far as the club scene. That's not common.

R: We have parties, yes, but sexual-oriented parties, no.

DE: Anything else about the leather/levi? There is something erotic about the leather — the smell of it, the sound of it, the feel of it.

R: That's all of it.

T: Yeah, the whole idea of the smell of leather, the look, the feel. The idea for me is also that when I look at a man and he's hot and he's into what I'm into — you can usually tell by the hanky code — and I see handcuffs and it just turns me on.

"No matter where we go as members of a levi/leather/S&M fraternity, other gay people have looked down upon us or differently at us."

DE: Toy, how did you get involved in the Harbor Masters?

T: I first met the Harbor Masters in Provincetown in 1983 during a run that I was at as a friend of the Orangemen of Albany. Then in March there was a night in Albany that the Orangemen were hosting the Harbor Masters. The Harbor Masters were coming to Albany on Friday night, and they were going to Rochester on Saturday.

continued on page 15

2ND ANNIVERSARY PARTY!

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ORGANIZATIONS

Capital Area Coalition Forms

On two recent August Sunday evenings a total of 50 lesbians, straights and gay men came together to mourn Charles Howard. Coming from as far apart as Otisfield and West Rockport, they expressed the impact of his death upon each of them, personally. They formed a Coalition to work against the homophobia and societal conditions which incited his murder. The Coalition will work in close cooperation with its counterparts in Bangor and Lewiston-Auburn. A decision was made that the group will meet biweekly on Sundays, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., at All Souls' Unitarian Church, 11 King Street, Augusta (622-3232), with the next meeting scheduled for August 26th. All interested persons are welcome. The media have covered both meetings, with a front page article in the *Kennebec Journal*.

The group will address itself to a range of tasks, including (but not limited to):

- * Stage Human Dignity Day in honor of Charles Howard, in Capitol Park, Augusta, in late September or early October, with a number of different bands participating throughout the day. One goal is to attract the disparate followings of each band so that very diverse people will be mixing together.

- * Influence the political/legislative process for the betterment of gay rights, both in the November election and in the 1984-85 legislative sessions.

- * Promote training in self-defense for lesbians and gay men.

- * Enhance gay health through work with various health departments.

- * Provide mutual support for lesbian and gay parents, and possibly for the children of gays.

- * Promote education on homophobia, if possible in the public schools among other places.

The following persons may be contacted about the Coalition: Hank at 623-2349, Harold at 623-8383, or Val at 785-4319.

GPA Update

by Kim Anderson

The GPA is opening their fall activities by co-sponsoring the Autumnfest with the Harbor Masters. Plans are being finalized to include various gay organizations in the Greater Portland area. We are fortunate to have with us this fall the same staff members who worked for us during the summer. The major event of next spring will be Symposium XII. If anyone has the time and energy to make a commitment to either of these activities please contact the GPA office. The National Gay Task Force is actively seeking membership to raise funds for the Hotline. Information on the NGTF is available in the office.

The Charles O. Howard Memorial Scholarship will be included as one of the awards on USM's Recognition Day. The recipient of the award is a USM student who writes the best essay on the importance of human rights. The unjustness of Howard's murder will never go away and this award will keep people thinking about the importance of human rights. The GPA staff will evaluate the essays to determine which one most clearly defines the issue. The scholarship will be awarded annually and will be funded through donations.

What did you do on your summer vacation? We worked for civil rights for lesbian women and gay men. An information center was set up in the GPA office to keep the gay community abreast of the latest developments in the Howard case. The staff has been assisting an increasing number of gay men and lesbian women locate housing in the Portland area who are moving from out of state. The GPA office has become a sort of Gay Tourist

Information Center. We have had visitors from Massachusetts, Maryland, Rhode Island, and Washington D.C. Our peer counselors have had a productive summer and another training session is scheduled for the end of the month with Dr. Barry Wood. On our summer break, we provided the gay community with information, strength and most importantly, gay pride!

The Open House of the twenty-ninth provided an opportunity to familiarize the gay community with our services and staff. GPA group members generously gave their time and skills that enabled us to make the Open House a successful venture. The fund-raising activities included: a cut-a-thon, bake sale and a car-wash. Everyone enjoyed the three o'clock movie feature, "La Cage Aux Folles." An information table in the student lounge provided visitors with meeting schedules, health reminders and gay newspapers.

Rick Bouchard will be doing a feature spot on the GPA, broadcast from the University's radio station, WMPG. The radio broadcast will be a good way to stay informed on GPA sponsored activities.

The topics discussed at the Friday Night Discussion Group have varied from androgyny to civil rights. Kurt Ferro addressed the group about the physical aspects of androgyny and cited several examples of androgynous entertainers. Paul Seidman reported to us on the Ninth Annual Conference on Men and Masculinity. Paul attended the workshops on pornography (as it oppresses women). The meeting of August third was an open discussion. Visitors from Northern Maine shared their experiences of anti-gay/lesbian violence with us and the conversation shifted to civil rights for lesbian and gay men.

New Birth in Maine

by Donna DesChamps, Co-Chairperson, CMG/LAC

On July 27th the Central Maine Gay/Lesbian Awareness Coalition was born. With encouragement, advice, and guidance from Bob Pouliot and Phil Gautreau we received a slap on the rump and our first breath of life.

Our purpose and goals are multifaceted. We will be politically responding to gay rights bills along with any legislation pertinent to the gay cause; socially sponsoring events that will bring both gays and lesbians together outside of the bars; providing information and educational materials to the community at large; networking with other organizations in Maine and across the U.S. to establish a strong foundation for gay rights, and providing a support group which will help gays and lesbians deal with the problems and dilemmas that we face in society today.

We are currently sponsoring a logo contest which constitutes a \$25.00 prize for the logo that best defines the C.M.G./L.A.C. The deadline for entries is September 3rd and the winner will be announced on September 17th. Entries should be submitted to the C.M.G./L.A.C. at P.O. Box 7917, Lewiston, Me. 04240 or dropped off at Sportsman's Athletic Club.

Beginning Thursday, Sept. 6th we will be conducting rap-sessions to be held at 2 Bates St., Lewiston (second floor) at 8:30 pm. These will be conducted on a regular basis and topics will be posted a month in advance. Anyone wishing to have a specific topic or issue discussed should submit their ideas to us no later than the 10th of each month.

The CMG/LAC meets every Monday night at 8:30 pm at 2 Bates St., second floor. We welcome new members and no membership fee is required. Just bring your ideas and energy.

ERA For Maine

"Equality of rights under law shall not be denied or abridged in this state because of the sex of the individual."

On November 6, 1984, the people of Maine will have the opportunity to add the above words to the Maine State Constitution. While Maine has made significant progress in its efforts to make sex discrimination both illegal and unacceptable, there is still a critical need for a *constitutional guarantee* that will serve as a *permanent and consistent* foundation for ensuring basic human rights under Maine law. Without the protection of a federal Equal Rights Amendment, the women and men of Maine need an equal rights guarantee under our state constitution — to include areas such as employment, family law, pensions, property ownership, and insurance — that will not be subject to interpretation by future government administrators and judicial appointees.

The ERA for Maine campaign *needs your support*. We need your money to produce voter education materials and buy media time. We need your energy to help inform the Maine public of the need

Lesbian Support Discussion Group

by Kim Anderson

Don't try to launch a project or a group in the summer. I heard this advice countless times from my associates. A group launched in the summer, I learned, reveals its core members. Group development has continued, for the membership has increased from three to nine members. The LSDG seems to be moving toward a more structured, organized, energetic and committed gathering of women. Active participation from group members in facilitating and planning activities will ensure the continuation of the LSDG.

The Lesbian Support Discussion Group is designed to give emotional support and general information to lesbians. The meetings are every Sunday from 6 to 8 p.m. Meetings that are not held in the Student Union Building may start earlier, so please contact the office for details (in case of an outing). The meetings have four main themes: social, discussion, political and women's arts. A dance is scheduled for September 9th in place of the regular meeting. It will be a good chance for people to meet the members and those persons unable to attend during the summer. The LSDG is sponsored by the Women's Forum and the Gay People's Alliance.


At the meeting on the 29th we had a speaker from the Mercy Hospital Alcohol Institute, Nancy Garcia. Topics discussed included: partner battering, substance abuse, stages of alcoholism and effectively coping with alcoholism. July 22nd the LSDG held a potluck supper. This informal atmosphere was a catalyst for discussing life issues. The LSDG is open to all gay women of the community and we encourage you to attend.

for the passage of the ERA. And we need your commitment to voting for the state ERA on November 6, 1984.

An anti-ERA organization has already formed, calling themselves the Maine E.R.A. Impact Coalition. That coalition consists of the Christian Civic League of Maine, the Maine Right to Life Committee, and Stop E.R.A. for Me. (the state chapter of Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum). We have no doubt that we will have to wage an expensive and forceful campaign in order to counter their rhetoric and myths.

That's why *we need you* and any resources you can offer the ERA for Maine Committee. Please let us know what you can do in the campaign for passage of a Maine ERA, and send your contributions to:

ERA for Maine
P.O. Box 423 D.T.S.
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September 1984

AROOSTOOK REPORT: News and Views from the Top of Maine

by Dick Harrison

Our summer has been tempered by the murder of Charlie Howard. Though we in the County did not know him, we are all affected by his passing. May his death not be in vain. May it become a catalyst for the much-needed positive changes in our society and a focal point for action by the lesbian-gay community in Maine.

It's been a busy summer up north with numerous picnics, barbecues, swimming, parties, a trip to Riviere-du-Loup, Quebec, to watch the tall ships pass on the Saint Lawrence River (we didn't see them — we were one day too early, but had a great time cruising the beach). Northern Lambda Nord continued its monthly meetings during the warm months, unlike years in the past. Any excuse to get together is a welcome occasion. Our locations for gatherings are expanding and now include Frenchville in the north and Linneus in the south.

We were successful in our grant application. The Chicago Resource Center gave us \$7500 for "operating expenses". The money is targeted for office equipment, advertising, book purchases, and donations of food baskets for Thanksgiving and toys at Christmastime to local residents in need.

For the second time this year we helped MPBN Radio answer their phones during their July fundraiser. Six Lambs plus two lesbian friends from Bangor staffed all eight telephones. However, MPBN's homophobia raised its ugly head. They mentioned NLN and the towns we were from but never that we were a lesbian-gay group. Then, after we collected \$10 from among the eight of us to offer a free subscription to "OUR PAPER: A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in Maine" for anyone pledging \$30 or more to MPBN, they read the offer only as "OUR PAPER". Apparently the words lesbian and gay got caught in their throats. We pointed out to them the need to read the *entire* name of the paper, both to encourage gay people to phone in and to let everyone know what OUR PAPER was so they wouldn't request it and then be surprised. So the MPBN folks caucused a bit over our request to read the entire name, consulted Kathy Dolly, their membership chairperson, and reported to us that they would not accept the donation of this monthly publication. ("The Ellsworth Klan will want to call in with *their* magazine!") When challenged by the fact that earlier in the week someone donated a subscription to a pediatrics magazine, (which is where our idea came from), they had no response. So, our donation was changed. We eight would now give \$10 directly to MPBN Radio if any member of the Bangor Lesbian-Gay-Straight Coalition joined MPBN. The radio staff's reaction this time was absolutely NO! They could not accept challenges from "special interest groups". "We'll have to develop a policy on this," we were told as they removed both OUR PAPER's name and that of a Bangor peace group from the posted challenges list. Outraged, two of the phone staffers stopped answering their phones.

We met the following day to discuss our course of action. A two-fold approach was decided upon: (1) to write a letter telling MPBN of our disappointment at their attitude (we had given them 52 hours of our time, yet they would not support us) and to please send

us their policy concerning "special interests." (2) We would like to gather a small group of lesbian and gay people from throughout Maine to meet with the MPBN folks face-to-face to discuss MPBN's apparent "vocal problem" — why they have trouble saying certain words on the air; what kind of support we would like; to allay their irrational fears of the Klan; and more.

So, as far as NLN is now concerned, that's the last time we'll help MPBN Radio until we hear a definite change in their attitude.

Winter Carnival Update: Our case, attempting to get advertising space in the Caribou Winter Carnival booklet, is now in the hands of a Machias attorney. We wait for a report. We did resubmit our small display advertisement to the six County weeklies and were pleasantly surprised that five of them printed it. Only the Saint John Valley *Times* in Madawaska has refused. But we'll deal with them in due time. The ad drew a wonderful exchange of letters in the Houlton paper ("The only paper in the world interested in Houlton, Maine.") Four of the six weeklies (Caribou, Presque Isle, Houlton, Limestone, all owned by Northeast Publishing which is in turn owned by the Bangor *Daily News*) had consistently refused to accept our ads in the past. Perhaps this change of attitude is indicative of a general societal trend.

Our recently-organized speakers bureau has completed the rounds of all four offices of the Aroostook Mental Health Centers (AMHC). We made presentations to the clinical staff in Madawaska, Caribou, Presque Isle, and Houlton, giving them an idea of what Northern Lambda Nord is and is not (not a dating service for sex but a support group) as well as an idea of the needs of our community. A positive rapport was established, and we anticipate referrals from AMHC to NLN of gay and lesbian clients. An ultimate goal is to offer workshops/lecture-type presentations, co-sponsored by AMHC and Lambda, geared to local guidance counselors, teachers, clergy, physicians, and anyone interested in learning about the sexual minorities in their midst.

The speakers group was thrilled to receive an invitation to address the Student Life Office's orientation of their Resident Assistants (RAs) at the University of Maine at Presque Isle. We were very pleased to know that the UMPI campus was beginning to recognize the needs of their student body by asking Lambda representatives to

Debbie Fier—in Concert:—

Appearing in Bangor, on Saturday September 8th is singer, songwriter, Debbie Fier. All proceeds will benefit the Bangor Area Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition. Tickets are \$4 and available at the door. The concert will be held at the Union St. Unitarian Church.

A pianist and captivating performer, Debbie Fier has shared the stage with Joanne Brackeen, Phoebe Snow, Weather Report, and Teresa Trull. Previous to this concert for the Coalition, she has played concerts in support of N.O.W. and the nuclear freeze and has participated in the Hampshire College Jazz Festival. Some may remember her from the New England Women's Musical Retreat last year. brief them on the needs of gay people as

Debbie's music is a pleasing concoction of soul, folk, Latin and most obvious, jazz. Her LP, "In Your Hands," released in 1982, was acclaimed by Ladyslipper Music to "...broaden the boundaries of Women's music..." The album shows the full spectrum of her music, from full-bodied instrumentals to pleasing vocals which mix well with the ever present horns. Because of the variety of music she presents, she has had "audiences alternately dancing in the aisles and then touched to silence," according to Variations, one of her concert's producers. Truly the work of a great performer, ready to break out as a national talent.

Debbie Fier — Don't miss her. "She'll draw you in and hold you close." (Diane Lindsay, record producer)

well as the services provided by Lambda Nord. Their RAs work directly with dorm residents as peer counselors and advisors, so the opening of this channel of communication is heartening. This should pave the way for us to approach the Student Life Office on the UM/Fort Kent campus as well as the campuses of the New Brunswick colleges in Edmundston and Woodstock.

A few Lambs will be heading south to speak with the Gay Peoples' Alliance at the UM/Portland campus. We've been invited to address the GPA Friday, September 21 at 7 pm at their office, 92 Bedford Street. We hope to meet many ex-patriot Aroostook people and encourage them to come back to the County (and for those who've never been to come up and visit!). There IS gay life outside the big city!!

Northern Lambda Nord's plans for September include getting as many of us to travel to Portland for the weekend during the Autumnfest, which should prove to be an exciting event. NLN is holding our monthly business meeting and pot luck meal Sunday, September 23 in Presque Isle. At least two Lambs are planning to travel to New York City September 28-30 for the International March on the United Nations for Lesbian and Gay Freedom and the accompanying conference. And because Lambda has the money to send them, two representatives will be attending the National Conference of Gay/Lesbian Phonelines in Washington, DC which takes place during the three-day Columbus Day weekend. Our Lambda Halloween party is Saturday, October 27, so if anyone is in the area you're welcome to join us. Well, that's all from the Lambs of the North. Happy 1st anniversary to OUR PAPER!! Baa-a-a!

Classifieds

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The rate for classifieds is \$4 for 30 words, 10¢ for each additional word. For personals add \$2 for handling. All ads must be prepaid. Mail ads to *Our Paper*, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104. We ask that you not use sexually explicit language in your personals. Responses to personals will not be opened by *Our Paper* and will be forwarded to you twice monthly.

Lesbians - join us for support and to have fun! Come to one of our potlucks in the mid-coast area. SASE: Gayle, RR1, Box 393, Waldoboro, Me. 04572.

Personal lists - meet men everywhere. 50-word ads, uncensored, say what you want, all types, all scenes welcomed! Hot fun. Infopak w/nude photos, \$3.00: Ad-Men, 59 West 10th St., NYC, NY 10011.

Free Remdate Listings - ME. to CA., details free. R.E. Main, 70 Government St., Kittery, Maine 03904, or call Ron at 1-207-439-4680, 9 am-5 pm daily.

Wanted: Public Relations Coordinator. Position requires coordinator to write, edit, and sign any correspondence for the Central Maine Gay/Lesbian Awareness Coalition. Please send resume and cover letter to: P.O. Box 7917, Lewiston, ME. 04240.

Hermaphrodite Transsexual Rights Committee accepts all unsolicited postpaid information, news reports, magazine clippings, on hermaphroditism, tranvestism, transsexuality and the law. Crescimanno, P.O. Box 149-#77-A-2726, Attica, NY 14011.

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DAILY SPECIALS

continued from page 3

crime (the law refers to "viciousness" which the judge did not), and the personality and character of each of the accused. To meet some or all of the legal tests the judge ordered that psychological tests and psychiatric examinations be made of each youth. The State then moved that for this purpose the youths be detained at the Maine Youth Center, South Portland. The judge questioned the D.A. as to whether any of the youths had violated the terms of his custody at home. None being reported, the judge denied the motion and said that instead the examinations would be conducted in Bangor.

Distress and Speculation Over the Judge's Ruling

Because of the imposed silence in the courtroom, until the hearing was concluded one could only feel one's own distress at this decision. With some difficulty I attended to the balance of the hearing. The crowd in the waiting area attested to the intensity of community feeling surrounding this case. Even the most well-meaning local psychiatrists could not conduct their examinations of the youths with the degree of objectivity that would be afforded at the Maine Youth Center, 150 miles away, and with far more expertise regarding youth crime than amongst Bangor psychologists. Therefore, what could be the judge's motives for this decision? If a Black person had been thrown to her/his death from the State St. bridge, can there be any doubt but that the accused would have been detained?

The obvious speculation was that the judge was being affected by influential families. But a Coalition leader had assured me earlier that none of the youths came from such families, and that the prominent Bangor attorney with the same surname as the two young women, friends of the youths who had observed the alleged crime in progress, was not, as rumored, a member of the D.A.'s staff. (What had not been disposed of by the time of the hearing was the rumor that that attorney, an uncle of the two young women, is a close crony of the judge.)

The next speculation was that, by refusing on two occasions to remand the youths to the Maine Youth Center pending a determination, the judge, because of possible future political ambition, was pandering to the rednecks in the community. This might help to explain why, on the occasion of the initial hearing, he had returned the youths to the custody of their parents. But on July 31st the judge had an "easy out" when it came to ordering detention: he could easily have announced that they were to be detained at Maine Youth Center not for purposes of premature punishment but in order for the necessary examinations to be performed. I was very troubled that he had not availed himself of this option wherein his own judicial skirts could have been kept clean. Instead, by repeating his refusal to detain them, the crime would surely be trivialized in the eyes of tens of thousands of teenagers and their parents.

Judge Cox, explained that the results of the psychological tests would be delivered to him, sealed. No one, not even the attorneys, was to see them before he did. They would be reviewed in a "show cause" hearing scheduled for August 20th. At that time the attorneys for the youths would have to show cause why they should not be tried as adults and the judge would apply the three legal tests in arriving at his decision. In concluding the hearing the judge explained that in all likelihood it would not be he who would preside in the case in the future, regardless of whether the youths ended up being tried as adults or juveniles.

I had been studying them. Two had their backs fully to the spectators. I was surprised by the height and physical maturity of the 17-year-old. The 15-year-old was seated so that his face could be observed throughout the proceedings. He, too, had a fairly large frame, though of medium height. But the roseate look of innocent boyhood summed up by the words, "peach fuzz," belied his role in this courtroom. His face appeared sober but neutral, and did not change expression throughout, not even when

the judge explained the consequences of being found guilty of an adult crime.

On the Courthouse Plaza

Following the hearing the District Attorney and spectators poured out onto the sunlit plaza, awaited by that portion of the media barred from the courtroom because of mechanical devices (TV cameras, tape recorders). Members of the Coalition, including two Unitarian ministers, were interviewed. The Rev. Doug Strong indicted the "thunderous silence" of all other religious institutions concerning the murder. Subsequently these remarks were aired fairly widely. But his and others' deep regret over Judge's Cox's decision to have the tests done in Bangor rather than at the Maine Youth Center received far less dissemination by the media, if any.

Some Coalition members gathered round when the media interviewed members of the teen group. One articulate spokesperson expressed relief that his buddies had not been detained, and described the three youths' remorse over the crime. He also strongly opposed their being tried as adults. The reporter for the CBS affiliate (Channel 5) asked what alternative he proposed. The boy didn't know; he wasn't a lawyer. But he claimed they were innocent, to which I asked, "Are you saying they did not hear Charles Howard cry out that he could not swim?" In response another teen male retorted, "But how did they know if he was telling the truth? Anybody could say that! If somebody was gonna throw me off a bridge I'd say I couldn't swim even though I can!"

At this point Barbara Bousquet, the reporter for the NBC affiliate (Channel 2), took over the interview with the first teen. However, it really wasn't an interview; it was more like a cross-examination: did he think the three youths should receive a slap on the wrist? Wasn't there a lot of homophobia in Bangor? Didn't queerbashing take place at Bangor High School? Her "attack" was so powerful that I feared that, when it came to airtime, her station would censor her for a violation of journalistic ethics. But the encounter

was aired in its entirety, perhaps because Channel 2 suspected that, in her outraged indignation, she was speaking for many silent, non-gay Mainers.

In contradistinction to the atmosphere of offended innocence being conveyed by the teen spokesperson in the CBS interview, a lesbian named Phibbs confronted him, accusing him of having earlier kicked her foot four times when seated on the bench behind her. He said he had done so by mistake. She said "Four times?" He countered with the charge that some members of the Coalition had accused him and other teen spectators of being "murderers." When asked, he could not point them out; they had already left. Phibbs placed his charge in the following context. In the waiting area several teens had spoken the word "dyke" when some lesbians were passing. One of the latter turned to them and asked, "Are you going to murder us, too?" So it would appear that earlier that morning the coexistence hadn't been quite as peaceful as I had thought.

The crowd and the media were gone. I lingered with two straight members of the Coalition, still carrying their placards protesting the crime, which had been barred from the courthouse. A man and a woman, very working class, approached us on the sidewalk. They were curious to know the outcome of the hearing. With obvious indignation against the crime and the alleged perpetrators, the man said, "Just because a guy is queer, you don't throw him off a bridge!" The woman, a member of a local Baptist church, was equally upset by the murder. (Another Baptist had just spoken on the Plaza of her minister's threats against her becoming active. She said he had warned her that if she took part in the Coalition he would kick her out of his church and insure that no church in Bangor would admit her. She still intended to participate.)

A full discussion ensued on the sidewalk and the two Coalition members, giving assurances that many straights like themselves were involved in the Coalition, urged the passersby to attend Monday night's meeting.

*

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Rest Areas Revamped

by S.R.

For many years rest areas on I-95 and other Maine highways have served as meeting places for some Maine homosexuals. (It would be inaccurate to say "Gay men" because most of the men involved appear not to have a gay lifestyle, a gay sensibility or gay pride.)

During 1983 The Rev. Buddy Frankland of Orono seized a lot of headlines with his demand that the Maine Dept. of Transportation do something about the threat of corruption to Maine families picnicking or otherwise making use of the rest areas. What resulted was some significant modifications at several but not all of the rest areas. For example, at the southbound rest area on I-95 south of Bangor, the toilets were turned around so that the doorways face the picnic area, no longer affording privacy to those entering and leaving. Also southbound on I-95, more radical changes were made at the rest area north of Augusta. The toilets were moved from a hill perhaps 60 feet from the parking area and are now located a few yards from the parking lot. In addition, a chain link fence has been constructed around the picnic area and relocated toilets so that no one may wander into the woods beyond. A fence similarly restricts access to the woods at the northbound I-95 rest area north of Augusta.

Perhaps the most radical changes are being made at the rest area west of Bath on U.S. Route 1. Several months ago three teenage males, using an abandoned path through the woods from Bath, walked on a few occasions to the rest area with the express purpose of

queerbashing and stealing money from homosexual men. It is reported that they were confident that the men, fearing exposure, would not report these offenses and, indeed, in two of three instances in which they confessed to hitting men over the head, no report was made to the authorities. But the third assault was so violent that the victim was knocked unconscious and had to seek the help of passing motorists when he came to.

The sexual orientation of the three men who were assaulted is unknown. It is reported that when the attacks took place other men in the rest area fled, offering no help to the victims. The third assault victim has declined an invitation to be interviewed on grounds that he is suing the State of Maine over the incident.

He reported the offense to the authorities. The assailants, ranging in age from fifteen to seventeen (the youngest was the leader), were apprehended and have been adjudicated in Juvenile Court. Those adjudged to have perpetrated the violence are now committed to the Maine Youth Center until their 18th birthdays.

The following changes have in consequence taken place at the rest area. The rest area was closed to the public for several weeks, but reopened during the week of August 3rd. A fence is being constructed, as in the case of Augusta north, which restricts the public to the area of the picnic tables. Because the toilets were formerly located deeper in the woods, temporary toilets have been erected a couple of yards from the parking area, with the doors facing the parking lot.

So, Friday night we were all told that we should be out and be real friendly to the Harbor Masters and make them welcome in our town and in our bar. I was not, at that point, still a member of the Orangemen. I was just basically someone who hung around — what you'd call a "GDI," "Goddamn Independent". I went out and I met the Harbor Masters and there were ten of them and had a good time meeting new people and reconnecting with those I had met in Provincetown. They left early; they weren't used to staying out until 4 A.M. and drinking.

The next morning, I went to a brunch for the Harbor Masters at the place they were all staying. I was made very welcome by one of the Harbor Masters who wanted me for dessert. He was a pledge at the time. It turned out we had brunch, then the Road Captain said it was time to get ready to go and Puppy had to load the van. So Puppy loaded the van and the Road Captain asked if everything was in the van, and Puppy said, "Almost — everything except my toy." And he picked me up and carried me out to the van. On the way out he asked me if I had anything I needed to do and could I really go to Rochester. I said I only needed my jacket and to make a phone call and he said, "Fine," and at that point proceeded to tie me up. The others proceeded to come out and they got into the van ready to go. The Road Captain was driving and he turned and asked me very seriously if I was going and could I go. He made sure I was not being forced against my will.

"The Harbor Masters went to the Boston Gay Pride March and it was the first time in fifteen years that a leather club marched in the parade."

DE: He was making sure it was consensual? Is that a ritual that often takes place? Do you often pick up new members that way?

R: (Laughter) No.

DE: So that seems to have been a light S&M scenario, the playing out of a scene between Puppy and you.

T: In some ways. Oh God, I never looked at it that way. Yeah, a light thing. I love being tied up.

R: It's a 5-hour trip to Rochester from Albany.

D: So what happened in the 5-hour drive to Rochester?

B: (Laughter) She's writing a book.

R: Sex.

T: The five hours were very nice. By the time we made it to the Thruway, I had no clothes on. I had clothes on at one rest area because I asked to have clothes on. At a couple of rest areas I was covered with blankets so the troopers wouldn't see me. We stopped for ice so that we could play with ice.

DE: And a good time was had by all?

T: There were two who didn't participate.

B: The Harbor Masters create letters to *Our Paper* again!

T: From there, I came up and visited people here in Maine. When I finished my Master's Degree, I made a choice that I wanted to leave the Albany area and I moved here — not just because of the Harbor Masters. I had been up here vacationing before, but the Harbor Masters played an important part. I was also considering Rochester. One aspect each city had going for it was they each had a leather club and that was something I did want. But, Portland won out.

DE: Ralph and Butch, would you consider yourselves in a relationship?

R: Oh, yes. For four years.

DE: Well, I don't want to assume anything here. (Laughter). Being in a relationship and expressing your sexuality with others in the way you do, have you had to struggle with jealousy, possessiveness?

B: When I met Ralph, I was with my then current lover for eight years. And he was with his lover for six years. And then he moved to live in a menage a trois with myself and my lover for a year before he moved up here. And then I followed him here. So, as far as having sexual experiences outside of the two of us, we more or less prefer to be three people or more, as long as the two of us are there. That feels less threatening to me.

R: I agree with that.

B: He thinks sex is sex and love is love and never the twain shall meet. I don't feel that way. When I have sex with someone else, there are certain things I don't do and don't permit other people to do to me, as a general rule. One thing we used to fight about a lot when he has sex with other people, he has sex with them like they are me, and I have a real hard time with that. I still do.

R: I agree. But what I try to get across to Butch is that I'm having sex with them, I'm trying to excite them and give them a good time, but I'm not making love to them. When I make love to Butch, I'm trying to excite him, yes, and help him have a good time, but I'm also making love to him. I don't make love with someone I don't love. It's what is going on in my head. For me there is a difference.

As far as the club goes, we may be lovers, but we definitely have differences of opinion on what we think the club should be doing, what the club shouldn't do, who should represent the club in certain functions. Outside of the club in our own relationship we have differences of opinion on numerous things.

*** * continued Next Issue * ***

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Sun., Sept. 2
\$2.00 Beer Bash and Complimentary Buffet.
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Mon., Sept. 3
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CALENDAR

Sunday, Sept. 2-Tuesday Sept. 4
"La Cage Aux Folles", at The Movies, 10 Exchange St., Portland

Monday, Sept. 3
Labor Day Supper, Spring St. Gym, 117 Spring St., Portland, 6:00
Labor Day Barbeque and Beer Bash, Cycles, 59 Center St., Portland

Friday, Sept. 7
New members meeting — special welcome to incoming Freshman, Gay People's Alliance, 92 Bedford St., Portland, 7:00
Lewiston/Auburn Night at Cycles, 59 Center St., Portland

Saturday, Sept. 8
A special live music Boogie Bash dance jam, featuring the Lost Latinos, People's Building, 155 Brackett St., (third floor), Portland, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., \$3 at the door, free cold spring water, 743-2423 for info.

Debbie Fier in concert, Unitarian Church, 126 Union St., Bangor, 8 p.m. \$4 at the door. Benefit for the Bangor Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition

Sunday, Sept. 9
Lesbian Support/Discussion Group, informal dance, 92 Bedford St., Portland, refreshments
Women's Outdoors Whale Watch. Call Cathy at 324-3671 or 1444 for reservations

Thursday Sept. 13-Tues. Sept. 18
Fall Gay Film Festival, Cycles, 59 Bedford St., Portland

Friday Sept. 14
Regular GPA meeting cancelled. Pat Califia at USM Science Building 8:00, free

Saturday, Sept. 15
Boston Night at Cycles, showing the videotape of the Mr. Drummer '84 contest in San Francisco, 59 Center St., Portland

Sunday, Sept. 16
Lesbian Support/Discussion Group outing, following Autumnfest Flea Market

Friday, Sept. 21
Anniversary Buffet, Spring St., Gym, 117 Spring St., Portland, 6:00 p.m., free

Northern Lambda Nords speaking on life for gays and lesbians in Northern Maine, Gay People's Alliance, 92 Bedford St., Portland, 7:00

Saturday, Sept. 22
Anniversary Show: "Mavis Morehead and Friends", live. 10:30 p.m., Spring St., Gym, 117 Spring St., Portland

Sunday, Sept. 23
Gays and Aging: A Social Dilemma, discussion at Lesbian Support/Discussion Group, 92 Bedford St., Portland

Friday, Sept. 28
Barry Hobbins, Democratic candidate for Congress, Gay People's Alliance, 92 Bedford St., Portland, 7:00

Saturday, Sept. 29
Mr Northern New England Leather Contest. Sponsored in conjunction with Interchain, to benefit the Gay Mens Health Crisis, Cycles, 59 Center St., Portland

Sunday, Sept. 30
BODY IMAGES/Part One: Eating Disorders (Anorexia), speaker: Tom Noonan from Maine Medical Center, Lesbian Support/Discussion Group, 92 Bedford St., Portland, 6:00

SUNDAYS

Northern Lambda Nord — last Sunday of the month — business meeting, 1:00 pm, followed by a potluck.

Wilde-Stein Club — every Sunday, 7:00 pm, South Bangor Lounge, second floor, Memorial Union, Univ. of Maine, Orono.

Interweave Augusta — last Sunday of the month, All Souls Unitarian Church, 11 King St., 6:30 potluck and meeting.

Lesbian Support/Discussion Group: Tired of the bar scene? Come to a meeting, 6-8 PM at 92 Bedford St., U.S.M. All women in the community welcome. Sponsored by Women's Forum and GPA.

MONDAYS

Feminist Spiritual Community — every Monday, 7 pm, State Street Church, Portland.

C.M.G./L.A.C., 8:30 pm, 2 Bates St. (second floor), Lewiston.

Seacoast Gay Men — every Monday, 7:00 pm, 292 State St. (basement), Portsmouth, N.H.

TUESDAYS

Greater Portland N.O.W. — fourth Tuesday of the month, Y.W.C.A., 87 Spring St., Portland, 7:30 pm.

Alcoholics Anonymous — Gays in Sobriety — every Tuesday, 7:30 pm, First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.

Our Paper staff meeting — every Tuesday, 7:30 pm, Our Books, 4 Pine St., Portland. New members are welcome.

Alliance To Preserve Reproductive Choice — second Tuesday of the month, Y.W.C.A., 87 Spring St., Portland, 7 pm.

WEDNESDAYS

The Gay Parents Support Group meets Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm, at the USM Student Union, 92 Bedford St., Portland. For further information call (207) 780-4085 or (207) 772-4741.

Greater Bangor NOW — last Wednesday of the month, Bangor Public Library, Bangor, 7 pm, 989-3306 for information.

THURSDAYS

Lesbian/Gay Alcoholics Anonymous — every Thursday, discussion meeting at 8 pm, Unitarian Church, Main St., Bangor.

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous — every Thursday, step meeting, 7:30 pm, First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.

CMG/LAC rap sessions, 2 Bates St. (second floor), Lewiston.

FRIDAYS

"Free To Bee" Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous — every Friday, 7:30 to 8:30, All Souls Unitarian Church, 11 King St., Augusta.

Gay People's Alliance — every Friday, 7 pm, 92 Bedford St., Portland — open meetings.

Northern Lambda Nord — second Friday of the month — discussion group in New Sweden.

SATURDAYS


Interweave Bangor — third Saturday of the month, Unitarian Church, Main St., 6 pm, potluck and meeting.

Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon — every Saturday, 8 pm, First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.

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Bates College
Lewiston 04240

Bowdoin Gay/Straight Alliance
Bowdoin College
Brunswick 04011

Central Maine Gay/Lesbian
Awareness Coalition
P.O. Box 7917
Lewiston, Me. 04240

Feminist Spiritual Community
c/o State St. Church
159 State St.
Portland 04101

Free To Be Group
Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous
P.O. Box 215
Augusta, Me. 04330

Gay Health Action Committee
P.O. Box 10723
Portland 04104

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous
c/o First Parish Unitarian Church
425 Congress St.
Portland 04101

Gay Parents Support Group
780-4085 or 772-4741
Portland

Gay People's Alliance
92 Bedford St.
Portland 04102
780-4085

Greater Bangor NOW
P.O. Box 8026
Bangor, ME 04401

Greater Portland N.O.W.
P.O. Box 4012 Station A
Portland 04101

Interweave
P.O. Box 215
Augusta 04330

Lesbian/Gay Committee
Me. Chapter Nat'l Assoc.
of Social Workers
780-4120

Mid-Coast Gay Men
P.O. Box 496
Camden 04843

Maine Health Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 7329 DTS
Portland 04112

Maine Lesbian Feminists
P.O. Box 125
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USM Women's Forum
University of Southern Maine
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